

IN COLOUR **FOREST'S LEAGUE CUP FINAL WIN!**

SHOOT!

18p

21st APRIL, 1979

**BIG MATCH
CROSSTALKS:**

**MAN. CITY
v EVERTON**

**WEST BROM
v ARSENAL**

**LEICESTER CITY
TEAM GROUP**

Manchester United
midfield player
Sammy McIlroy (left)
and Spurs defender
John Lacy in F.A. Cup
action at White Hart
Lane.

THE chairman of one hard-up Third Division club sent a memo to the manager asking why his phone bill was three times as high as the previous boss.

"Because I make three times as many calls," rapped back the manager. It is no surprise that the manager has now quit and is doing brilliantly higher up the ladder.

BAN ON UNITED

MANCHESTER United's manager Dave Sexton banned his players from attending the Professional Footballers' Association's dinner in London last month.

Several players had to cancel plans for their annual trip to the dinner at the Hilton Hotel, London, after manager Sexton ruled the function was too close to the rearranged League game against Coventry at Highfield Road. The dinner was on a Sunday, the match on the Tuesday.

"It would have been like going out for a big celebration on a Thursday before a Saturday match," Sexton explained.

Footnote: Coventry won the game 4-3.

BIG JIM STILL WANTS TO LEAVE

JIM HOLTON (below) is currently in the Coventry City side but the Scottish centre-half is seemingly determined to leave Highfield Road.

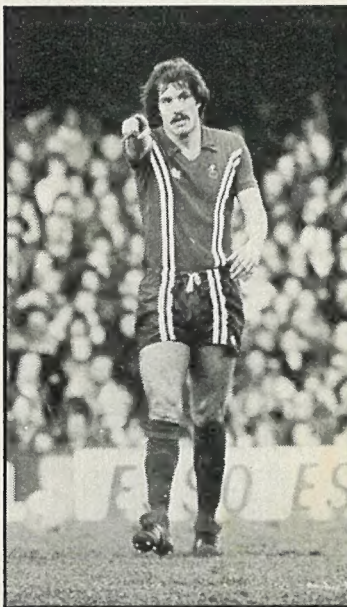
"I am up for transfer, but do not know the asking price," said Jim. "Meanwhile I will keep playing and trying as hard as ever to impress."

"I will talk to any club interested in signing me. In fact, I wouldn't mind playing in Scotland if the opportunity came up."

Coventry, however, might well have a change of mind if they can put together a winning run.

They have had problems in defence and the surprising feature is it was not until recently that Terry Yorath returned to the side to give The Sky Blues, and Jim Holton, a big morale booster.

● Celtic were showing an interest in Jim recently, but I understand manager Billy McNeill has decided to keep faith with regular Parkhead stopper Roddie McDonald.



EVERTON SEARCHING FOR THE PERFECT BALANCE

PLAYING on difficult pitches is something Everton don't do very well, for during the Siberian Winter spell they lost three games. The first, at Coventry, ended the club's 19 match unbeaten run, followed by a heavy defeat at Southampton, and a narrow loss at relegation threatened Wolverhampton.

"It's a problem for Everton," says manager, Gordon Lee (right), "because we're supposed to play constructive football with a touch of style. Obviously we tried to adjust, but a lot of our team talks during that time were centred on just banging the ball up-front, chase and hope for the best. In snowy conditions it's not a matter of winning matches by playing skilful football, you might just as well toss the coin and see who gets the points."

"Football is about players and the spectators. Now if conditions are bad I don't think the players can perform their skills to satisfy the paying public. If the game gets cancelled at half-time, then the spectators have every right to feel cheated. Who's going to give them their money back?"

"In our game against Bolton this season their Peter Reid got injured and he hasn't played since. It's not sour grapes and moaning about results. It's just plain common sense."

"But back to team matters. Everton have got to pick it up again now if we can because this is a vital period for us. We've got to get back to where we were before the

stopping and starting of the ice age."

"We haven't done as well as we did last year in terms of scoring goals, but we've got to keep going, keep playing and keep working. We believe we're right. There's no crisis. Everton haven't been out of the top three for two years and we've only lost twice at home in 12 months."

"Last season we scored plenty of goals, but it didn't win us anything. This term we haven't scored as many, but maybe we're a bit better defensively."

"We're very basically like Nottingham Forest. We play down the left-hand side of the pitch because we've got a left-winger in Dave Thomas. I want to improve the right-hand side and to get the perfect balance — that's why I tried to sign Kevin Hird from Blackburn. Unfortunately for us he decided to go to Leeds."

"We haven't hit the right chord yet. It depends on your standards and the standards on Merseyside are that you've got to be in the top bracket. In other parts of the country life's comfortable if you're out of the bottom three."



NEWS

Compiled by
Peter Stewart



DESK

'THE INCREDIBLE HULK'

RANGERS manager John Greig has struck it rich with his first buy for the Scottish Champions. Billy Urquhart, signed from the Highland League for a modest fee, is blossoming into a fine attack leader and came on as a substitute in the European Cup match against Cologne. He also scored several vital goals for the first team. One strange thing, though... the bulky striker has an unusual nickname at Ibrox... he's known as 'The Incredible Hulk'.

F.I.F.A. referee Pat Partridge lost a proud record in March. Ten foot snowdrifts at his isolated Durham County farm forced him to miss the F.A. Cup Sixth Round tie between Southampton and Arsenal at The Dell.

Pat reflected: "It was the first time in 26 years I let someone down. I had no alternative, though. It needed a helicopter to rescue me."

.....EARLY LEAVER.....

I WONDER why fans leave grounds before the end of a game. They often miss a crucial goal, and why pay good gate money for 80, not 90, minutes football.

However, a very familiar face was seen to slip out of the City Ground, Nottingham before the end of the European Cup-tie against Grasshoppers. None other than the £1 million man himself, Trevor Francis.

The score was 2-1 when Francis swept out of the gates.

"I was about half a mile away from the ground when the score was flashed on Radio Two, Forest 4, Grasshoppers 1."

"I was a little embarrassed by it," explained Francis, adding that he had left early to watch a film recording of the match on television.

OWING to a cash crisis, Shelbourne's players have not been getting paid for weeks. But the players themselves have organised a trip to Cyprus at the end of the season.

STILL outstanding... When Phil Parkes joined Walsall from Brierley Hill they agreed to pay the non-League club £500.

They paid £250 as soon as they completed the signing and the remaining £250 would be paid when Parkes made ten League appearances.

Unfortunately, the £250 has never been paid despite repeated requests by Brierley Hill.

Mr. Arthur Holt, Brierley's former chairman, said: "Since the transfer there have been a lot of changes at Walsall and it now seems most unlikely that we will ever get the money."

Ironically, Walsall transferred Parkes to Q.P.R. for £15,000 and the London club, of course, recently collected £565,000 from West Ham for the England 'keeper.

SOCCER CHINESE STYLE

CELTIC are to kick-off the new season in oriental style — meeting a Chinese representative side at Parkhead in August.

The Republic of China national squad will be visiting Britain and have specifically asked to play a game in Scotland. The date will be either August 7 or 8.

The Chinese visit follows the tour West Bromwich Albion made of China last close season. Celtic were also invited but were unable to accept. It's odds on, however, that another invitation will be extended to the Scottish club when the Chinese come to Parkhead.

WEST HAM are competing in two youth tournaments in April and May.

They participate in an Under-18 tournament in Dusseldorf, West Germany at Easter, and take an Under-19 squad from Upton Park to The Hague, Holland for a week-end tournament early in May organised by the ADO Youth Club, the amateur section of the Dutch First Division team Den Haag.

STRANRAER's goalkeeper, John Taylor, has been named as the club's player of the year.



SETTLED AT IPSWICH... Dutch midfielder Arnold Muhren, his wife Geerie and children Arjan (in car) and Claudia.

OUTSTANDING CLARK

SUCCESS has come late for Nottingham Forest full-back Frank Clark (below), but few players deserve it as much. The Nottingham Forest defender was singled out as man of the match when Forest won the League Cup and the 35-year-old is now hoping Forest will win the European Cup. A broken leg and a free transfer from Newcastle four years ago hardly gave Forest fans confidence that the club had bought a player who could help them win honours.

Last year, Clark stood in for Colin Barrett and was outstanding as Forest beat Liverpool in the League Cup Final.

He recalls: "I'd been in the reserves for six months and didn't think I'd ever get back. Now, apart from being injured, I've been in the team ever since."



PEACH AND CRAB

SOUTHAMPTON full-back David Peach has found what he considers to be the perfect way of relaxing from First Division pressures.

He is part-owner of a fishmongers business in Lymington, Hampshire, and most of his spare time away from The Dell is spent behind the counter.

Peach said: "It's a great way of unwinding. And it helps me prepare for a career when my playing days are over."

When he's not behind the counter, the former Gillingham player is out in the Solent catching fish for the shop. Who wants to buy this crab?



THE appointment of Willie Roche as player-manager of Drogheda United means that exactly half the 16 League of Ireland clubs now have player-managers. And Amby Fogarty, Cork Celtic's boss has been known to turn out in emergencies.

MARTIN FOLLOWS DANNY

WHEN Northern Ireland ace Martin O'Neill appeared for Nottingham Forest in their 3-2 League Cup Final victory over Southampton, he became the first Irishman to play in successive winning Finals at Wembley since Chelsea and Northern Ireland supremo Danny Blanchflower led Spurs to consecutive F.A. Cup triumphs, v. Leicester and Burnley, in 1961 and '62, respectively.

WHEN £500,000 David Mills scored on his West Brom debut against Coventry City it was the 50th First Division goal of his career. His other goals were for Middlesbrough.

PETER Williams, an 18-year-old striker with Wrexham, is hoping to be a high flier — just like he was in his younger days. Wrexham-born Williams, a Welsh Under-15 schoolboy international and also a Welsh professional Under-18 youth player, was

also his country's junior pole vault Champion. Peter, who made his League debut against Sheffield Wednesday in the last game of last season, has his sights fixed on further honours for club and country.

Brothers find the net

AT the same time Eric Gates was scoring two goals for Ipswich in their F.A. Cup-tie against Barcelona, brother Alan, in slightly lesser company scored two goals for Horden in a Rothmans League game against Tow Law.

Not many brothers find the net on the same day, even less when on the same side. Yet Jack and Roger Doughty of the Druids scored seven between them in Wales' 11-0 victory over Ireland at Wrexham, 1888.

On September 21, 1946, Swindon Town defeated Exeter City 2-0 in the Third Division South. The Stephens twins, Alfred and William, each scored a goal, the first time twins scored in the same Football League game.

TEENAGE Ballymena United defender Nigel Worthington, one of Ulster's most promising youngsters, is attracting the interest of Manchester United, Burnley, and other clubs.

Northern Ireland Youth cap Nigel has displayed class and consistency this term, and a transfer to a Football League club may become a reality in the near future.

CLUBS seem to be engaging younger managers these days. But experience still gets priority in some quarters. International team-managers Ron Greenwood (England) and Jock Stein (Scotland) are 56, Danny Blanchflower (Ireland) 52, and Mike Smith (Wales) 42.

GARRY NOT GARY

ISN'T it amazing? So many people still spell Garry Birtles' name incorrectly. The Wembley programme spelt it Gary for the League Cup Final and many of the Sunday newspapers did, also. Even ITV's The Big Match, and the papers on the Monday morning didn't all get it right. For the record, it is Garry, not Gary.

IN SHOOT's 3rd March issue we tipped off our readers that Sheffield United's young Simon Stainrod could have a fine future. Oldham's manager Jimmy Frizzell had the same opinion and made United's manager Harry Haslam, an offer of £60,000 he couldn't refuse.

Stainrod got off to a good start for his new club, scoring on his debut, but alienated his old club with open criticism. He will be well advised for a while to let his boots do the talking.

RELIABLE Waterford defender Al Finucane, recently missed his first League of Ireland game in SIX years.

FACTastic

IN 1892 England picked three Stoke defenders — Rowley, Clare and Underwood — for the game against Ireland. At that time the Stoke players, including the super-trio were paid 2s 6d a match — yes, 12½p. When they learned that some other clubs' players were receiving 5s (25p) a match, they went on strike before an important game. The Stoke bosses protested but had to pay up! Modern players talk in thousands of pounds — certainly not in half crowns!

ROGER Kirkpatrick, of Leicester, the referee who looks so much like one of Charles Dickens' characters, retires at the end of the season.

He started refereeing in 1949 in Leicester local Leagues. He later officiated in Southern League football before joining the Football League referees' list in 1966.

He refereed the 1972-73 F.A. Youth Cup Final and the National Association of Youth Clubs Cup Final last year.

A married man, with two sons, he is a franchise consultant. He plays golf, squash and five-a-side football. He is President of the Leicestershire Saturday Teens League.

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
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The fearless Maine Road 'New Boy'

MALCOLM Allison has never been reluctant to blood youthful talent.

His philosophy is simple: if a kid is good enough he is old enough. Manchester City's Nick Reid, claims Allison, is good enough.

The decision to play the powerful 18-year-old against Borussia Monchengladbach in the U.E.F.A. Cup was certainly a dramatic act of faith. Reid's most testing match previously was a Youth Cup-tie against Crystal Palace and the boy admitted: "I found the Palace game a little scary sitting in the dressing-room."

"But once I got on to the pitch the fear just disappeared. It's always the same."

In fact, Reid is considered to have one of the most relaxed temperaments at Maine Road since the days of Derek Jeffries, the teenager whose first game was against the feared German winger Libuda of Schalke.

Reid is steadier and reads a game better.

Says Allison: "There are great players, good players and naturals. Nicky Reid is the latter. The startling thing about him is he is so physically strong — and quite fearless."

His 'fearlessness' is something of a legend in the Maine Road dressing-room. His enthusiasm in practise games is such team-mates often come in bruised and respectful.

Gary Owen comments: "For a kid Nicky has fantastic strength in the tackle — when he goes in you know he is going to come out with the ball."

Part of Reid's strength, his impressive stamina, comes from a private training regime of Olympian dedication.

Each night after training at Maine Road the squarely-built boy goes road running through the suburbs of South Manchester.

"I don't think it's impossible to work too hard at this stage of my career."

"Since the age of six I've had one ambition — and that is to play for Manchester City. I didn't think the chance would come so early but now it has, I'm determined to make sure it doesn't slip through my fingers."

"Of course I would love to play for my country, but, let's face it, I've got everything to do just keeping my head above water in the First Division."

"Mind you, I'm pretty sure I will establish myself in the First. It's all I've ever worked for in my life."

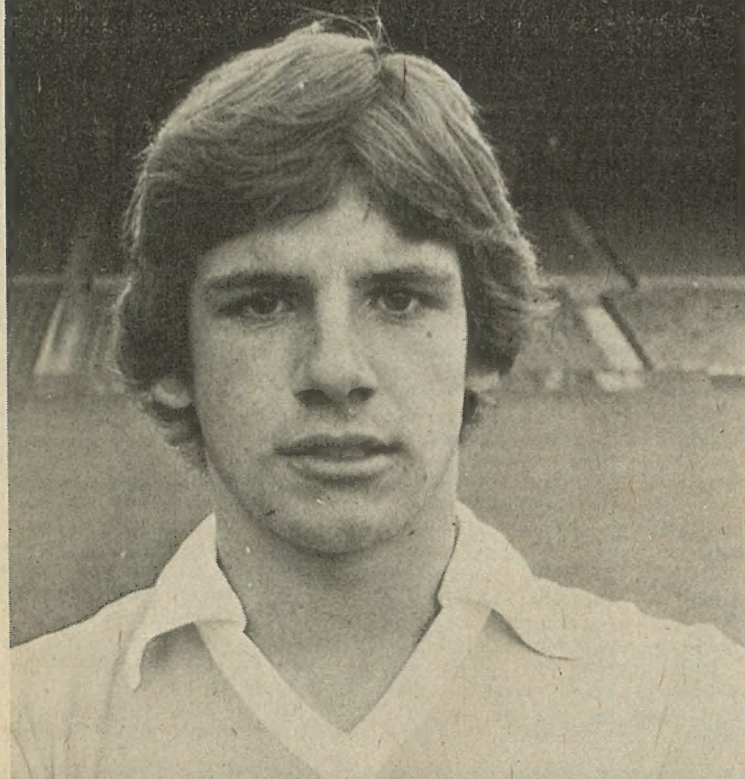
When City introduced him to the first team atmosphere he was wide-eyed.

"He was 13th man on a trip to Coventry," reports Allison, "and you could see he wanted to pinch himself. But he settled down very quickly. He's physically strong — and he's intelligent."

Reid confesses to a certain sense of disbelief.

"At first," he says, "you feel strange working with the star players. Then you feel yourself getting into the rhythm of it. It's not so terrifying. In fact, it's very nice."

"I've never had idols. I've always been fascinated with football — it's as simple as that."



THE KID WHO CONQUERED OLD TRAFFORD



WHEN a tall, blond, 20-year-old played for Manchester United against Ipswich on November 18th, last year, the occasion was garnished with intense irony.

For goalkeeper Gary Bailey was making his debut for one of the most famous clubs in the land, against the club for whom his father Roy played when they won the League Championship in 1961-62.

"It was a remarkable situation, and I was delighted to keep a clean sheet. We won 2-0," says Bailey.

The match climaxed a unique series of events in Bailey's short, but meteoric, career.

Young Gary left England for South Africa with his father, who played for Crystal Palace before going to Ipswich, when he was six. Roy continued to play and eventually went into management, and, although he never forced his son to follow him into professional football realised the boy's ability and determination could not be quelled for long.

Gary says: "Between the ages of ten and 17, my father gave me specialised coaching and this continued right up until the time I made the First Division in South Africa, which is about the same standard as the Fourth in England."

"Now my father rarely gives me advice, but I am lucky in that United have employed Harry Gregg, their former 'keeper, to coach the goalkeepers and he has been a great help."

Perhaps Roy Bailey considers any tips to his son would be pointless, because he readily admits Gary is a far better goalkeeper than he ever was.

Gary reveals: "In South Africa I played for Wits University. Their manager was Eddie Lewis, who played a few times for United as a centre-forward. He told me if ever I should go to England, Manchester United should be my target."

"It just progressed from there. I was recommended to United, signed on Christmas Eve, 1977, and got into the reserves by August of last year, and made my debut in November."

Following Alex Stepney's departure to America and the failure of Paddy Roche to find consistent form, the emergence of Bailey as a

goalkeeper of extreme promise must have been of great relief to United, who were ready, earlier in the season, to pay around £400,000 for Coventry's Scotland goalkeeper Jim Blyth before doctors vetoed the move.

United manager Dave Sexton says: "I am most pleased with the way Gary has settled in."

"It is a big responsibility to play for Manchester United, but Gary is taking it all in his stride. He obviously lacks experience, but is learning all the time."

"I am just keeping my fingers crossed he can maintain his good form and stay in the team," adds Sexton.

Bailey grows in confidence as he plays each game, and United's improved form was due as much to him as any other player.

The save he made from Cyrille Regis's drive against West Bromwich earlier in the season was captured perfectly by the television cameras and will linger long in the memory. But Bailey does not consider that flinging himself across the goal to stop actual shots the strongest facet of his game.

'Offensive'

"I am best at catching crosses, which is probably because of my height — 6ft 2ins. I like to halt a move by the opposition with a catch, and start us on an offensive with a quick throw."

"Harry Gregg and I are continually discussing tactics. We watch videotape recordings of the games in which I play, so we can spot anything important. Harry also sees every game in which I play. He has been of tremendous assistance," says Bailey, who still retains some of his South African accent.

Sexton has a high regard for Bailey's goalkeeping technique: "He has very good handling, is extremely athletic and his distribution is excellent."

Bailey has already played for England Under-21's and a bright future does indeed seem in prospect for him. "My ultimate ambition is to play for England at full international level and to be successful at Old Trafford."



RAY CLEMENCE talking soccer

FOOTBALL is made of memories — mostly good, some bad. For this week's column I'd like to recall for you those I rank as the most memorable in a career that so far has seen me collect the highest honours at club level and establish myself in an England team destined for greatness.

MY MOST THRILLING GAME FOR LIVERPOOL was helping to win the European Cup for the first time in the club's history in Rome in 1977.

I'm sure you'll all remember the match details: how Terry McDermott opened the scoring; how their Allan Simonsen, last season's European Footballer of the Year, equalised; how Tommy Smith put us ahead again with the only goal he'd scored all season — and what a goal! A thundering header from a Stevie Heighway corner! And how Phil Neal sealed Borussia Mönchengladbach's fate with a penalty conversion after Berti Vogts had brought down Kevin Keegan, playing the game of his life.

But it wasn't until we slumped down in the dressing-room, after a lap of honour around that magnificent stadium, and looked at the huge glistening silver trophy — a trophy we'd inherited from former great sides of Europe, such as Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, Ajax, Manchester United and Celtic — that the realisation of our achievement actually began to sink in.

It was like a dream come true. Together we'd accomplished something that had eluded a club that had won almost every major domestic honour plus two U.E.F.A. Cups.

We felt we needed to relive the experience in order to really grasp what we had done. But it was over, all too quickly, and all we could do was dredge up from our memories incidents from earlier rounds and the Final itself, kick by kick.

Whatever Liverpool achieves in the future, I'm sure that very first European Cup win will never be eclipsed as the greatest moment for the club — and me.

MY MOST THRILLING GAME FOR ENGLAND came at Wembley in March, 1975, when we beat the World Champions, West Germany, by 2-0, with goals from Colin Bell and Malcolm Macdonald.

'MEMORIES~GOOD



Another England attack, led by Allan Clarke, is foiled by Poland.

'A big disappointment — missing out on the 1974 World Cup Finals'

The Germans were without some of the players who had helped beat Holland, led by the great Johan Cruyff, 2-1 in the Munich Olympic Stadium in the 1974 World Cup Final, but even so it gave us all a tremendous lift to be the first to defeat them since that triumph.

It was like 1966 all over again, with a packed audience cheering us on to avenge the traumatic defeats in Leon, Mexico, in 1970, and at Wembley, by 3-1, in a European Championship game in 1972.

Some critics tried to minimise our achievement by pointing out the match was only a friendly, but the irrefutable answer is there are no friendlies at the top level — every game is hard fought with honour at stake — especially when it's between us and the West Germans.

MY PROUDEST MOMENT FOR LIVERPOOL is one of my earliest

memories with the club. You've guessed it. Walking out in front of the Kop at Anfield for the very first time.

A fabulous experience that made me feel ten feet tall. It was a night game, a Cup-tie against Swansea City — now managed by my former team-mate John Toshack — and the floodlights, as they always do, heightened the impression of being on a huge stage.

An almost deafening roar assailed me from every side, uplifting me, dispelling any lack of confidence I felt. Our then-manager, the irrepressible Bill Shankly, always maintained the Kop was worth a goal start to us — and here I was, being made aware this was no idle boast.

Unfortunately, the game was played in atrocious conditions, with a near-gale blowing, and we gave a lack-lustre performance. However,

it was enough to win the tie by 2-0 and send our fans home reasonably happy.

I can't recall making one outstanding save, but at least I kept a clean sheet!

MY PROUDEST MOMENT FOR ENGLAND, however, did involve me in making one of my ten best saves (which I described in last week's column) to keep another clean sheet. This was against Brazil, in a pre-1978 World Cup Finals tour of South America.

I saved from Rivelino, then their leading star, by coming off my line and flinging myself at his feet.

I played in all three games. We drew 0-0 with Brazil, 1-1 with Argentina and 0-0 with Uruguay. Three draws, but we made history by becoming the first England international team to return from South America undefeated.

With Liverpool it hasn't been all glory at Anfield.

MY MOST DISAPPOINTING MOMENT WITH LIVERPOOL was neither of our F.A. Cup defeats — against Arsenal in 1971 or Manchester United in 1977 — but narrowly missing out on winning the League Championship in 1972.

The situation was a real cliff-hanger: Derby had finished their programme and were top. But both Leeds United and we had a game to play and it looked odds-on one of us would overtake Derby and win the title.

The games were played on the

Monday night: Leeds away to Wolves, and Liverpool at Highbury against Arsenal.

During our game we learned Leeds were losing at Molineux, and when we scored I was already hugging myself at the prospect of winning my very first Championship medal with the club.

But the referee disallowed the goal for offside, a debatable decision, the game ended goal-less — and Derby, on holiday in Majorca with then-manager Brian Clough, became Champions in their absence.

MY MOST DISAPPOINTING MOMENT FOR ENGLAND came after a game in which I didn't play. My rival Peter Shilton was the man in possession of the yellow shirt at the time.

The date: October 17th, 1973. The venue: Wembley. The opposition: Poland. At stake: a place in the 1974 World Cup Finals.

England had to win, and the capacity crowd fully expected the team to do its duty.

It was one of those nights when things perversely refused to go right

AND BAD'

for England. The lads had 90 per cent of the game, putting the Poles under continuous pressure, but the ball simply would not go into the net.

Their goalie — Jan Tomaszewski — so unorthodox that Brian Clough called him "a clown" — used just about every part of his anatomy to keep his goal intact.

Then, from a breakaway, Domarski scored and although England levelled the score with a penalty conversion, we were out of the competition.

There was utter dejection in the England camp, the hardest hit being the players sickeningly aware they had lost their last chance of appearing in the World Cup Finals.

Football has its humorous side, of course, and I'll end my trip down memory lane on a light-hearted note.

THE FUNNIEST THING THAT HAPPENED TO ME WITH LIVERPOOL was during a League match at Anfield six or seven years ago against Leicester City. There had been a downpour beforehand and conditions were very slippery.

Keith Weller crossed the ball from the right, more in hope than anger, and although Rodney Fern — now with Chesterfield — was run-

Colin Bell (out of picture) scores England's first goal against West Germany at Wembley in 1975.



'A big thrill — beating the World Champions at Wembley'

ning in, I was in no danger as I came out to collect.

My mind must have been occupied with what I was going to do with the ball because I took my eye off it to study the disposition of

my attackers — and allowed it to slip completely through my hands.

Next thing I knew it had bounced off my head to a grateful Rodney, who grinning with surprise and gratitude stroked it into our net.

The Granada TV cameras were there to capture this classic Clemence clanger, and ensured I wasn't allowed to forget it by screening it at the start of their programme every week for the rest of the season.

With England, I've had a lot of laughs, but I can't recall a situation involving myself to recount.

However, I still smile at the remembrance of Sir Alf Ramsey, who first selected me for international duty, never getting my Christian name right.

He greeted me with the words: "Welcome to the squad, Roy," when I first reported, for an Under-23 match against Wales, and continued to address me as Roy until he left the job.

I was too much in awe of the great man to correct him.

Looming for Liverpool is what is the make-or-break period for many clubs, when major issues of Championship, U.E.F.A. placings, promotion and relegation can be virtually decided.

We play Manchester United at home on Saturday, and Aston Villa away on Easter Monday. We're looking for three points at least.

Roy Clemence

WHEN SHILTON AND CLEMENCE RETIRE! WHAT THEN FOR ENGLAND?

Is the No. 1 position the No. 1 problem for Ron Greenwood? Who is there to succeed Peter Shilton or Ray Clemence? Read the startling facts in SHOOT! SPRING SPECIAL!

ALSO EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH CESAR LUIS MENOTTI Argentina's World Cup manager.

and RON ATKINSON — WBA's manager.

PLUS! FULL COLOUR PHOTOS OF "The Scots at Manchester United;" Tom Forsyth (Rangers); Graham Rix (Arsenal); Frank Worthington (Bolton); Bob Hazell (Wolves and England under 21) and Mike Flanagan.



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**-JOHN WILE
(W.B.A.)**

**'We can't afford
to lose this game'**

**-WILLIE YOUNG
(Arsenal)**



WILE: I expect a very hard game, Willie. We respect Arsenal for your organisation and refusal to give up even when things are going against you. We discovered this, almost to our cost, when we beat you 2-1 at Highbury on Boxing Day.

YOUNG: You caught us stone cold that day, John. We'd just beaten Spurs 5-0 away and we honestly did not expect you to attack us so strongly straight from the kick-off. Most teams sit back a bit and allow the game to build up in tempo. But while we were still cold Bryan Robson and Ally Brown scored two quick goals and floored us.

WILE: We adopt the same style at home and away. Attack is our strength, although we spent most of the second-half at Highbury inside our own box, hanging on grimly to our early goals. That was a marvellous comeback by Arsenal and after Liam Brady scored from the spot you almost snatched a point.

YOUNG: We need two from Satur-

day's game, John.

We want to be in Europe next year. One certain way is to finish high in the League, the other is to win the F.A. Cup.

WILE: Congratulations on reaching Wembley, Willie. We have come through a tough spell when we were tired, drained by a flu-bug and faced with a back-log of games because of the terrible weather. These circumstances cost us a chance of going all the way in the F.A. Cup. But now we look forward to a comparatively straightforward two games a week until the end of the season.

YOUNG: One thing we do have in common is a sense of amazement at the way Red Star Belgrade managed to knock us out of the U.E.F.A. Cup this season. They were outplayed at Highbury, yet snatched a late, late breakaway goal.

WILE: I know how you must have felt. We were honestly the better team over the two legs. We created enough chances to have buried Red Star, we forced them to

adopt very tough tactics to keep us out and it seemed only a matter of time before they cracked. Instead, they sneaked into our half and scrambled a fluke goal. But you must always draw something positive from disappointments, and maybe the fact that we can concentrate on the League alone is a good thing.

YOUNG: You have your work cut out, John. Liverpool are one of those rare teams who do not drop silly points under pressure. It is almost depressing to battle with them for the title. But I believe that you have the team now which could do just what nobody else expects — stop Liverpool at the last moment. You have the games to play and could come within two points of them.

WILE: This is why I expect us to complete our double over you this season, Willie. Every League game means two priceless points to us. We have only the League left to go for and we know we have a realistic chance of winning it for the first time since Albion's only previous

triumph, back in 1920. What a great boost that would be for the growing Midland revival.

YOUNG: I think you will find, however, that we have a good record against Albion in recent seasons. Last season we hammered you 4-0 at Highbury and 3-1 on your own ground. And our away form has been good this season. We fear nobody.

WILE: I accept that. But figures on paper mean nothing when two teams meet for real. We have the ultimate prize in domestic football to go for, and although we expect a typical hard match, we have the confidence and ammunition to blast The Gunners.

YOUNG: We both have top-class players in our ranks, John. So whatever the outcome, the fans are guaranteed their money's worth. And nobody can say that we will have to play any typical end-of-season games this term. In fact it looks as if every game is going to be a mini-Final of some kind.



Steve Gattin goes close for Arsenal v Albion at Highbury this season.

CROSSTALKS

Man. City v Everton at Maine Road



'A tremendous struggle in midfield'

-JOE CORRIGAN
(Man. City)

WOOD: After our previous match against Manchester City at Goodison, Joe, I thought you would have been up among the leading teams at this time. To me, your team seems to have so much potential, and I anticipate a tough game when we meet at Maine Road.

CORRIGAN: We have the players, George, and although there is no chance of League honours for us, we must consolidate our position in the table. Equally important, we have to try to come through with some good results for the sake of our supporters — they've been

City's Peter Barnes eludes a tackle from Everton skipper Mike Lyons.

very patient, and two points against Everton would be some consolation for previous disappointments.

WOOD: We've a lot to play for as well, notably a place in Europe, so we can't afford to give anything away at this stage. If we can beat you, this means we'll have secured the "double" this term against City, though I concede that our 1-0 win over you earlier in the season was a lucky one for us. I thought you played well, but we kept plugging away and I recall it was a gruelling 90 minutes.

CORRIGAN: This time I can see a tremendous struggle developing in midfield. Andy King has been in great form for Everton in this

'Yes, and I feel we are stronger in that department'

-GEORGE WOOD
(Everton)

department, but we are well represented here, too, with players such as Colin Viljoen, Asa Hartford and Gary Owen. Asa is a formidable competitor, who really puts his stamp on a game.

WOOD: I agree about both teams being well equipped in midfield, where I believe we are stronger than City. Andy King and Martin Dobson can give us an advantage over anybody. And at the back, we have tightened up, and I feel this will be a low-scoring game.

CORRIGAN: In Colin Todd, you have one of the best back-four men in the country — he is very sharp with good vision. For us, there are Tommy Booth, Dave Watson and Paul Power in defence, and up-front, I look to us doing more attacking. Your manager, Gordon Lee, won't want to lose any further ground to Liverpool, and it could be that Everton will be more cautious than City, preferring not to push forward too much and leave possible gaps behind. Of course, this is my summing-up, and I don't pretend to have a blue-print of your possible tactics.

WOOD: You are right in one respect — we don't intend to concede anything to Liverpool. For years, our fans have had to endure seeing the trophies going to Anfield, and this puts a certain pressure on Everton. Now, our opinion is that we have just about got the sort of side necessary to bring a few honours our way, and end some of the frustration of recent years. With all respect to Manchester City, my impression is that we've more to aim at this season than City, particularly since your U.E.F.A. Cup reverse in Germany.

CORRIGAN: Borussia were certainly quick on the break, and they got their goals in this way. But without making excuses for our defeat over there, we were unlucky when Tony Henry hit a post for us, then they broke straight away from this to score their first goal. After that, we found it difficult to get back into the game. However, our morale



was all right when we travelled to Highbury a couple of days later to play Arsenal — we were on top up to the interval, and although they were without Liam Brady and lost Willie Young through injury, we were well worth a point.

WOOD: It won't surprise me to see you pick up some more points between now and the end of the season, and at least you haven't any relegation worries. And I know that City's pride will be enough to put them on the attack when we take you on at Maine Road. As a goalkeeper, I'll be keeping a sharp look-out for Mike Channon when he is anywhere near our penalty-area. Incidentally, on the same day in March that you were getting a draw at Highbury, we tied 0-0 away to Derby County on what was the heaviest ground I've played on this season. There was mud everywhere, and it was impossible to play good football on it — I'm hoping that conditions at your ground are good enough to allow us to provide some entertainment for the fans, especially as we can rely on having a solid contingent of Everton supporters there.

CORRIGAN: Following the setbacks that City have had in the past, I'm looking forward to us proving that we can do better. When scoring chances are provided, the players will have to make the most of them — but I share your view, George, that this could be a low-scoring game.

WOOD: The only way in which it could develop into something more than a 0-0 or 1-1 result would be if one of the two teams got the ball in the net early on. Naturally, this would lead to the side that was behind moving more into attack, and in that case, Joe, there could be plenty of action at both ends.

CORRIGAN: This wouldn't surprise me, as the two sides are well-matched in defence, midfield and up-front. So predicting the outcome is not the easiest task in the world, but I hope I'll be right in forecasting a good game.



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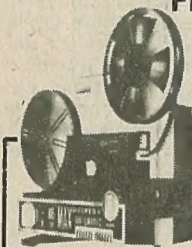
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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

ONE record Leicester would love to lose concerns Wembley. Four times since the last War City have appeared in F.A. Cup Finals. Four times they have stood in misery as their opponents have climbed the famous steps to the Royal Box to collect the trophy.

The first occasion was in 1949 when they went down to a talented Wolverhampton Wanderers side by 3-1. It heralded the start of a decade of glory for the Molineux club.

In 1949 Leicester were a Second Division side, but when they returned in 1961 they had finished sixth in the First Division. Yet their major problem was how to stop their opponents, Tottenham, in the F.A. Cup Final.

Spurs had already won the First Division title with a then-record 66 points.

Sadly, Leicester were not equal to the task and Tottenham became the first club this century to win the League and F.A. Cup "double", beating City 2-0.

City were back again at Wembley in 1963. This time they faced a Manchester United forward-line that struck fear into defences in those days.

Giles, Quixall, Herd, Law and Charlton were all too much for City, who played their part in making it one of the best Finals seen at Wembley. City's only regret was that United won 3-1.

Leicester's last Wembley appearance was in 1969 when they lost to Manchester City and a single goal scored by Neil Young.

The club were formed as Leicester Fosse in 1884 — a name they were to play under until 1919 — by boys from Wysseston School.

Ten years later they turned professional and played for the first time in the F.A. Cup. They beat South Shore in the First Round and then lost to Derby County 3-0 after a 0-0 draw.

A season later they were elected to the Second Division of the Football League. For the record, they finished fourth and won their first promotion in the 1907-08 campaign.

Their history in the Football League since has been inconsistent. The Filbert Street club's best



Gordon Banks saves for Leicester City during their 1-3 defeat to Manchester United in the 1963 F.A. Cup Final.

LEICESTER CITY

Four times unlucky at Wembley

League position being in 1928-29.

That season saw Leicester miss the First Division Championship, won by Sheffield Wednesday, by one point. Wednesday got 52 points, with a better goal average, and City ended on 51.

One trophy Leicester have won is the Football League Cup. In a two-leg Final they beat Stoke City in 1964. A year later they were runners-up in the competition to Chelsea.

A BIG IMPROVEMENT

THE appointment on June 1st, 1978, of Jock Wallace (right) as manager of Leicester City surprised the footballing world. Here was the manager who has just steered Rangers to the second treble in Scottish soccer in three years, turning his back on European Cup football and taking over a club who had just been relegated.

Leicester were not just relegated from the First Division, they scored only 26 goals in their 42-match campaign. The joke at Filbert Street being that the "Goal Time" tickets were being overprinted with "Goal of the Month".

No one expected City to win promotion straight away after such a season. But since Jock Wallace has been in charge you can already see a major improvement in the basically young side. A chink of light is beaming through the dark clouds that have shrouded Filbert Street for too long.



Mark Wallington

PEN PICTURES

(L.App.— League Appearances; G.— Goals; S.— Substitutes. All records to the end of January, 1979.)

DAVID BUCHANAN: Young striker given his first team debut on a close season tour of Holland. L.App.— 2 and 1 sub. G.— 1.

TREVOR CHRISTIE: Young striker who signed for Leicester after leaving school. League debut v. Wolves in February, 1978. Born Newcastle. L.App.— 26. G.— 8.



Andy Peake

MARK GOODWIN: Exciting young midfielder and a product of the Filbert Street Youth system. Born Sheffield. L.App.— 19 and 5 sub. G.— 3.

NEIL GREWCOCK: Striker who scored on his League debut in March, 1979.

EDDIE KELLY: Midfielder signed from Q.P.R. in the summer of 1977. Scottish Under-23 international. Born Glasgow. Ht. 5.7. Wt. 12.0. L.App.— Arsenal 168 and 7 sub, Q.P.R. 28, Leicester 41. G.— Arsenal 13, Q.P.R. 1, Leicester 1.

LARRY MAY: Central-defender who made his League debut in the 1976-77 season. Born Sutton Coldfield. L.App.— 24 and 2 sub. G.— 2.

MARTIN HENDERSON: Winger signed in October, 1978. Henderson (right) made his name with Glasgow Rangers. L.App.— Leicester 14 and 1 sub. G.— Leicester 2.

JOHN O'NEILL: Young defender given his League debut by Leicester City this season. Born Derry. L.App.— 6.

ANDREW PEAKE: Signed professional in January, 1979, and given his League debut this season. L.App.— 2.

JOHN RIDLEY: Midfielder signed from Port Vale in October, 1978. Born Consett. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 11.12. L.App.— 152 and 6 sub, Leicester 13. G.— Port Vale 3.

DENNIS ROFE: Defender signed from Orient in 1972. England Under-23 international. Born London. Ht. 5.7. Wt. 10.11. L.App.— Orient 170 and 1 sub, Leicester 249. G.— Orient 6, Leicester 3.

BOBBY SMITH: Midfielder signed from Hibernian in December, 1978. L.App.— Leicester 3. G.— Leicester 1.

MARK WALLINGTON: Goalkeeper who joined Leicester from Walsall in the 1971-72 season. Born Walsall. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 12.0. L.App.— Walsall 11, Leicester 186.

TOMMY WILLIAMS: Midfielder and has appeared at full-back and in the middle of the defence. Very promising player and a great

favourite of the crowd. Born Leicester. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 10.4. L.App.— 47 and 6 sub. G.— 3.



LEICESTER CITY



FRONT ROW: Steve Convey, Andy Peake, David Buchanan, Dennis Rofe, Jack Wallace (manager), Mark Goodwin, Bobby Smith, Eddie Kelly

BACK ROW (left to right): Martin Henderson, John Ridley, Steve Whitworth (now Sunderland), Trevor Christie, Mark Wallington, Tommy Williams, John O'Neill, Larry May

JIMMY NEIGHBOUR
Norwich



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When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Linda Young of Morpeth in Northumberland, who wins our Special Prize of £3. She writes:

KEMPES — FIVE-YEAR WONDER

SINCE the 1978 World Cup I've been a great admirer of Mario Kempes. Although I was delighted when you printed a long article about him (March 17th) I was astounded at some of the comments by the writer, Graham Turner.

In the last five seasons Kempes has scored 142 goals at club level, plus 21 in 35 internationals for Argentina, yet Turner still states Kempes cannot readily score against quality opposition. Also, that Mario has had little success at club level. Does Graham Turner expects Kempes to be perfect?

I'm sure any British manager would be delighted with such "inconsistency", and after the



World Cup, what more proof is needed that Kempes CAN score against quality opponents?

Can his lack of success with his clubs be all Mario's fault? He scores consistently, so it would be more reasonable to conclude that Kempes has not played for a side worthy of honours.

Admittedly Kempes is having a poor season now, but I can't believe his career is over at 24. He is still trying to come to terms with his new-found fame and fortune, as well as the burden of expectation and his recent marriage.

In fairness, Graham Turner is obviously a great admirer of Mario, because he wrote a more sympathetic article on him in the February SOCCER MONTHLY. Sympathetic or not, I feel he's misled a lot of readers with his "Mario Kempes — Superstar or 12-day Wonder?" angle. Twelve days

indeed. Five-year Wonder would be more apt.

● It all depends how you are going to judge Kempes (below). The truly great goalscorers ... Greaves, Müller, Law, to name just three ... scored consistently season after season at the highest level against all types of quality opposition. Mario did nothing against West Brom in two games, and they are quality opposition. Mario was superb in the latter stages of the World Cup, and without him I doubt if Argentina would have won. But he isn't yet ready to stand alongside the really outstanding scorers of recent years.

Numbers Game

IT'S about time the numbering of players from one to 12 was scrapped as half the time a player's number bears no relation to his position. Instead, each club should give their players a permanent number at the start of the season and then entire squads could be printed in programmes. This way, supporters would know who was playing as team-changes are invariably drowned by singing and chanting.

MIKE MORRIS, SHEFFIELD.

● The problem is, with so many transfers the numbering would have to change anyway. Liverpool operate something like this, with players almost having their own numbers. Too many clubs make unnecessary changes — it doesn't fool the opposition but it does confuse the fans.

Deyna Cheers

ON seeing the quote "Deyna's Day Will Come" I eagerly awaited Malcolm Allison's explanation as to why Kazimierz had been left out of the team. Instead, I was astonished that such a respected magazine would distort the facts so much.

The quotes that Allison gave were typical of the inadequate reasons he has given in various interviews. Deyna hasn't "got the confidence" — surely the only way he could get that was by playing?

The general opinion of the loyal Kippax section where I stand is one of bewilderment. The City crowd can be, admittedly, quick to get on a player's back, but when we've seen Deyna play he has been encouraged and had his own special cheer.

I can only suggest SHOOT listens more closely to the opinions of the real City fans.

MICHAEL RYAN, SWINTON.

● We let Allison have his say, and now you've put your side, which is the purpose of Goal-Lines. I still think 32 is too old for a player to try his luck abroad, no matter how talented.

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Scored in every round

Has any player ever scored in every round of the F.A. Cup, up to and including the Final, in which his club has played?

COLIN TAY,
POWYS

● Yes, Colin, there have been quite a few — the last being Peter Osgood, when Chelsea won the Cup in 1969-70. Earlier scoring stars have been — A. Brown (Spurs, 1900-01); Ellis Rimmer (Sheffield Wednesday, 1934-35); Frank O'Donnell (Preston, 1936-37); Stan Mortensen (Blackpool, 1947-48); Jackie Milburn (Newcastle, 1950-51); Nat Lofthouse (Bolton, 1952-53); Charlie Wayman (Preston, 1953-54); and Jeff Astle (West Bromwich, 1967-68).

Lofthouse

As a keen Bolton supporter, I'd like to know Nat Lofthouse's record for the club?

IAN ETCHELLS,
WAKEFIELD

● Loyal one-club man Lofthouse joined Bolton as a 14-year-old amateur in 1939. But War came to delay his League debut until the first full post-War season of 1946-47, Ian.

He stayed with the club until he hung up his boots in 1961 — by which time he'd scored 256 goals in his 452 League games.

1953 "Footballer of the Year" Nat Lofthouse also scored 30 goals for England in 33 full internationals — and gained an F.A. Cup-winners medal in 1958 to follow a loser's medal five years earlier.

United/Red Star

What was the Manchester United line-up which drew 3-3 with Red Star Belgrade in the European Cup on 5th February, 1958 — the day before the Munich air disaster on the return journey?

NICHOLAS WELCH,
MACCLESFIELD

● This was the side, Nicholas — Harry Gregg; Bill Foulkes, Roger Byrne; Eddie Coleman, Mark Jones, Duncan Edwards; Ken Morgans, Bobby Charlton, Tommy Taylor, Dennis Viollet and Albert Scanlon.

Of that eleven ... Byrne, Coleman, Jones, Edwards and Taylor all died as a result — as did reserves Jeff Bent, David Pegg and Liam Whelan.

Club officials who died were Walter Crickmer (secretary), Tom Curry (trainer) and Bert Whalley (coach).

Manchester United survivors of the terrible crash were manager Matt Busby — and players Johnny Berry, Jackie Blanchflower (who never played again), Bobby Charlton, Bill Foulkes, Harry Gregg, Ken Morgans, Albert Scanlon, Dennis Viollet and Ray Wood.

Eight sportswriters (including former Manchester City and England goalkeeper Frank Swift), two crew members, and two other passengers also died.

Southampton's Cup win

Who did Southampton beat on their way to winning the F.A. Cup in 1976?

RICHARD LAKE,
POOLE

● First-off, Richard, were Aston Villa — beaten 2-1 away in an extra-time replay after a 1-1 home draw.

Then came Blackpool 3-1 at home — followed by a 4-0 home replay win (after a 1-1 away draw) over West Bromwich.

Next Bradford City were beaten 1-0 away, followed by Palace 2-0 in the Semi-Finals at Stamford Bridge.

Then, of course, came that 1-0 win — from a Bobby Stokes goal — over Manchester United at Wembley.

Goals for Law

How many goals did Denis Law score in his star-studded career?

ROY POWER,
COVENTRY

● In Football League games, Roy, he managed a goal in almost every other match — 217 in 452.

The tally was made up like this — 16 goals in 81 League games for Huddersfield; 21 in 44 for Manchester City; 171 in 305 for Manchester United — and then back to Manchester City for another nine in 22.

Ironically, "The King's" last was possibly his most significant — and, on his own admission, saddest — when he scored the only goal of the game for City at Old Trafford on 27th April, 1974, which doomed his old club, United, to the Second Division.

On the international scene, Law is Scotland's all-time top scorer — with 30 goals in his 55 games.

SHORT PASSES

● Plymouth Argyle's record gate is 43,596 (v. Aston Villa; Div Two; 10th October, 1936).

(PETER WILSON, Plymouth.)

● Tottenham's first-ever Football League game was a 3-0 win over Wolves in Division Two on 1st September, 1908.

(ANDREW JOHNSON, Redhill.)

● Both Pat Jennings (Spurs v. Manchester United; F.A. Charity Shield; 12th August, 1967) — and Peter Shilton (Leicester v. Southampton; Div. One; 14th October, 1967) — have scored direct from a long clearance.

(HELEN GRIFFITHS, Merseyside.)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

More success for Cally?

IAN CALLAGHAN, the former Liverpool star, made a habit of winning medals in his brilliant career at Anfield — and he has not lost his appetite for pot hunting in the Third Division with Swansea this season.

The former England international is playing a crucial role in helping the Welsh club mount a challenge for the Division Three title.

The promotion race is wide open, he says.

"Apart from ourselves, Watford, Gillingham, Shrewsbury, Swindon and Carlisle all have a chance to go up. Two games in March which helped Swansea tremendously were those against Gillingham and Watford, both of which we won. Maximum points from these matches were vital to us, and the fact we got them kept the town buzzing with excitement about our promotion prospects.

"There is tremendous interest in South Wales concerning our team. In the past, attendances were as low as 1,500 to 2,000. Now gates average between 10,000-12,000. Against Watford they were double this figure. So all-round, things have been good for us."

For Callaghan, making the transition from First Division Liverpool to Third Division Swansea was far from easy, though the settling-in period is now well behind him.

"There was a period of adjustment. I found that space was closed down and occasionally I was 'kicked-out' in midfield, but I soon became accustomed to the different type of game. There is

more football played in the First Division, yet the standard at Swansea is good, and there is some fine talent in the side."

Among the men who have contributed to Swansea's bid for a place among the leaders are John Toshack, player-manager at Vetch Field, Tommy Smith, Phil Boersma and Alan Waddle, all former Liverpool colleagues of Callaghan's.

Says Ian: "John Toshack has done a great job here, and has attempted to mould the side on the Liverpool pattern as far as possible. It has paid off.

"But while there will be pressure on the team, I'll miss a certain part of the excitement in Swansea, as I'm living in Liverpool and travelling back there after games. This means I'm away from home more than I've ever been in my career.

"I still train at Liverpool where, as is always the case, the club are in contention for honours. Oddly enough, although I was never too conscious of pressure when I was a player at Anfield, I know it's there when I'm with my old mates — and in a way there is a feeling of relief that I'm not part of it.

'Threat'

"Incidentally, I can't see anybody preventing Liverpool from lifting the Championship again. There is only one club, West Bromwich, who I would class as a threat to them, but Albion will have to be going to stop the title landing up at Anfield."

A memory of his fine Liverpool career Cally will cherish forever is the 1965 F.A. Cup Final at Wembley, when he was responsible for the centre leading to the Merseysiders' winning goal against Leeds United.

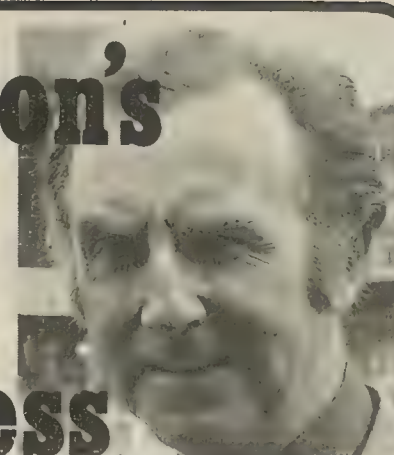
"The header from Ian St. John that decided the result in extra-time brought me my happiest-ever moment in football. Liverpool had won the Cup for the first time in their history, and I thought it an even more unforgettable occasion than our later success in the European Cup.

"Now I'm hoping promotion for Swansea will add another chapter to my hall of memories."



Brighton's BIG Business

thanks to Mike Bamber



LITTLE did comedian Norman Wisdom realise when recommending that Mike Bamber should replace him on the board of Brighton and Hove Albion's directors eight years ago he was sowing the seeds for the most exciting period in the club's history.

Three years later Bamber became chairman. Brighton were then struggling in the Third Division with an average gate of 5,000.

Yet in five years Bamber has transformed the club, adopting the same drive that took him from an estate agent's office boy to the head of his own highly profitable company. Now, Brighton are one of the most progressive clubs in the Football League. Bamber's dream of First Division football has persuaded the club to start on ground improvements which will increase the crowd capacity to 37,000.

Shrewd spending, which has brought players of the calibre of Brian Horton, Mark Lawrenson and Peter Ward to the Goldstone for bargain prices, combined with the appointment of a first class club secretary and commercial manager, has helped create what Bamber describes as "a family atmosphere" at the Goldstone.

'Spreading'

"While the club is disciplined to the highest order, which is vital for its success, I won't stand for any rumours spreading and if anyone has any complaints they can come and see me," Bamber explained.

That pattern was set virtually from the moment he took charge when he quickly squashed a threatened strike among his players, who were demanding the reinstatement of their former manager, Pat Saward.

After Pat Saward's departure Bamber's business acumen instinctively told him a big name was essential to boost the dwindling gates.

"Because the club had no money at the time it wasn't possible to go for a star player, which is why I set my sights on Clough and Taylor when they left Derby."

After a week of meetings Bamber pulled off his first major coup by surprising everyone in the football world but himself when, to use his words: "I managed to sell Brighton to Clough and Taylor."

Bamber's initial investment paid an instant dividend when the following Saturday's home match against York attracted a 16,500 gate, plus an army of Pressmen.

But Clough and Taylor were unable to prevent two disasters — a 4-0

defeat by non-League Walton and Hershaw in the F.A. Cup in 1973-74 which was followed by an 8-2 thrashing by Bristol Rovers.

While the managers' presence continued to capture the town's interest the inevitable clear-out soon followed.

"We were still short of finance which meant there was a question of going out and spending large sums," Bamber emphasised. "In all they purchased 12 players over six months for a cost of £100,000."

Clough's eventful nine months in the South ended when the lure of Leeds United proved too big a temptation but Bamber's persuasive powers temporarily broke the partnership as Peter Taylor decided to become manager in his own right.

In his first season he just failed to take Brighton into the Second Division and, a few weeks before the new season kicked off, he announced he was going to rejoin Clough at Nottingham Forest.

"As far as I was concerned Peter had a job here for life," Bamber said, "I never had any doubts about his ability and I still have the greatest admiration for him. He was definitely my type of man and did a very good job for us while he was here, and even though we missed promotion the gates have never looked back since his arrival."

Even though Bamber and his fellow directors were stunned by Taylor's decision no time was wasted in finding a successor.

"I'd never met Alan Mullery but I suddenly remembered an incident I'd seen in a match when he was captaining Fulham. The way he handled a player who disobeyed him — when Fulham were four goals up made me realise here was a manager of the future."

Before the local Press knew of Taylor's departure Bamber had plucked Alan Mullery out of the doldrums and had appointed him manager.

Mullery took Brighton into the Second Division at the first attempt and Bamber streamlined the club by making it a subsidiary of a new company, Brighton and Hove Leisure Ltd., whose shares are divided equally among the seven directors.

"This means the club is now run on a firm business footing and the company will expand into outside interests with any profits being ploughed back into the football club," Bamber commented.

It certainly seems the future is bright at a club heading for the First Division for the first time.



In VICTORY

WHEN Nottingham Forest won this season's League Cup Final, Brian Clough didn't take his players off for a champagne dinner at the Savoy. Instead the team coach carried them straight back to Nottingham — and Clough celebrated with a fish supper at home with his family. Here, four stars recount the unusual ways they have celebrated — or shaken off their disappointment — after a big game.

'Dancing on a railway platform'

— PHIL NEAL, LIVERPOOL

ANYONE who was waiting for a train at Watford Junction on the night of May 21, 1977, will remember the sight of a dozen professional footballers dancing on the platform.

They were the players who'd represented Liverpool in the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley a few hours earlier. And what made their strange ritual all the more inexplicable was that they'd been beaten 2-1 by Manchester United.

Full-back Phil Neal explains: "We were due to play in the European Cup Final in Rome four days' later, so we needed to pick ourselves up pretty quickly.

"There's nothing worse than losing at Wembley and until we got to Watford, we were in a pretty downcast mood.

"I think it was Ray Clemence who started the dancing — and with his legs, he looked a right sight. Let's face it, he's no Fred

Astaire or Lionel Blair.

"He had us in fits, and then we decided to join in. I don't know what the other passengers thought, but it did the trick.

"We had a really good train journey after that — and, of course, we won the European Cup the following week.

"What made the defeat against United so disappointing was that we had already won the League and were going for the treble.

"The nice thing about winning a European Final is that it is normally the last game of the season and afterwards you can really let your hair down.

"At Liverpool, we usually cap it with a real big party and we stay up all night. The wives, and everyone else, come along and it's a great event.

"But I'll never forget that night on Watford station — even though we lost the match."



Jimmy Case (left) and Phil Neal proud display the European Cup after beating Borussia Monchengladbach in Rome

'An early night after Cup Final win'

— ALLAN CLARKE, BARNSELY player-manager, formerly with Leeds United



ALLAN Clarke scored Leeds' winning goal in the Centenary Cup Final of 1972 — and was tucked up in his hotel bed before midnight.

It wasn't that Clarke felt particularly tired after his efforts. In fact,

he was tossing and turning half the night, unable to sleep.

The reason he and the rest of his team-mates were in bed so early was that Leeds had a First Division title decider against Wolves the following Monday.

Clarke, now manager of Fourth Division Barnsley, recalls: "There was a banquet after the Final, but the players weren't allowed to go to it.

"We had a couple of beers and then went off to our hotel in Wolverhampton. We watched Match Of The Day and then, off to bed.

"It seemed funny to spend Cup Final night in bed, instead of staying up celebrating. And we never really got to properly toast that Cup win.

"We lost to Wolves on the Monday and blew our chances of the 'Double' and if you'd been in our dressing-room at ten past nine, you would have thought we'd had a terrible season.

"You could have heard a pin drop, the lads were so low. That's what a great bunch of professionals they were.

"After the Wolves match, we returned back to Leeds on the coach, and everyone went off home. You would never have known we had won the Cup only a few days' earlier.

"It must be the least-celebrated F.A. Cup win ever."



Allan Clarke (right) scores the only goal of the game to win the 1972 F.A. Cup.

and DEFEAT

'You come down to earth next morning'

— TONY BROWN, WEST BROM

RON Atkinson has uncorked a few bottles of champagne since he took over as manager of West Bromwich Albion.

But Albion veteran Tony Brown, who's seen it all before, knows that the fizz doesn't last long.

He says: "No matter how good a win you get, and no matter how important it is, by the next morning, it's all a bit flat.

"I suppose that's a reason for making the most of it at the time — really going to town with the celebrations. But that's not me."

Brown is more likely to choose the Brian Clough style of celebrating — behind the locked front door of his home with his family.

"I usually have a few drinks with the other players at the ground

and then go off home. For the rest of the night, you feel pretty high if it's been a big game. But you come down to earth the following morning."

Brown, of course, was in the Albion side that won the F.A. Cup in 1968. But even then, he didn't go mad.

"That was different, because we were down in London. And a banquet was laid on for us, which made it all the more special.

"But I didn't get drunk or anything like that. I'm not a great drinker at the best of times."

Brown finds that success is the most explosive cocktail — and even that can leave you with a morning after the night before feeling at the following breakfast.

Red Star players celebrate after knocking out West Brom in this season's U.E.F.A. Cup.



'Win or lose, I'm on a razor's edge'

— WILLIE MORGAN, BOLTON

ON the night of a big match, Willie Morgan usually ends up tucking into a midnight feast of spare ribs and chop suey.

The Bolton winger says: "I can

never eat straight after a game, because I'm on a razor's edge. For a few hours, it's like walking on glass.

"The other lads in the team are usually the same so we have to unwind with a few drinks.

"Then, about midnight, we're all starving so we go off for a meal — usually a Chinese.

"You might as well eat, because there's no way you can sleep after a game. I don't know any footballers who go to bed early after they've played. You know you would just lie awake half the night."

Unfortunately for Willie, most of his big football nights have been unhappy ones.

"I think I must have played in seven losing Semi-Finals in my career — and after most of them, I've ended up in tears. It's a terrible thing to lose in a Semi.

"It's so depressing that sometimes I've gone straight home and sat in the house all night, rather than stay with the lads.

"But usually we have a few drinks to try and get over the match. As I've said, if you try to go to sleep, you'll only be reliving every kick of the match, anyway.

"We didn't have a great big night out when we clinched promotion last year because we were expecting it — and League success is a gradual thing.

"But it's nice to celebrate at the end of the season, when you can relax more and everyone can be together."

Willie Morgan (right) takes on two Millwall players during Bolton's promotion season of 1977-78.



Flying Flynn! Birmingham City's Tony Towers puts the skids under Leeds' midfield star Brian Flynn.



SHOOT!

E OIN Hand is positive about it — "Portsmouth are on their way back. A great club is coming alive again." And the tall Dublin-born defender should know what he is talking about because he has experienced more years and more matches than any player at Fratton Park.

"I came here in October, 1968. A season or so before the club had just missed promotion to the First Division and there wasn't a thought around the place that we would be anything worse than a mid-table Second Division side."

How that changed just three years ago! Portsmouth dropped into the Third Division, then to the Fourth. Financial problems besieged the club which thrived on its triumphs immediately after the War... for a time the shutters looked like coming down forever.

"Yes, it was a time of real gloom," admits the Republic of Ireland international. "In March, 1976, I took myself off to South Africa for a year but, somehow, this tremendous old club kept calling me back. After all, I had arrived as a 21-year-old and it was part of my life."

So back he came rolling up his sleeves. Now the battle which he knew he faced is slowly being won under that most famous of all Pompey heroes, who is now manager, Jimmy Dickinson, M.B.E., and coach Frank Burrows, who was in that giant-killing Swindon Town side which won the Football League Cup in 1969.

"There's new vigour and ambition around the place," agrees Hand. "People see the challenge we are making this season as the turn of the tide. And they're right! The first priority has to be to get clear of the Fourth Division. That's no place for a club like Pompey!"

Burrows, centre-half in Swindon's



REWARD

FOR POMPEY'S LOYAL HAND

triumphant side, is being given great credit for Pompey's rejuvenation. "There's not a fitter side in the League," states Hand. "There has never been a sign of us fading in the final minutes of any match."

The other international at Fratton Park, Welshman Derek Showers, instantly agrees. He arrived recently from Bournemouth to add power and aggression to the front line and says: "I've been unhappy about my career for quite a while. I had been bitterly disappointed about losing my place in

the Wales side after only a couple of games and the first thing that Frank said to me was 'Now, let's start on the job of getting you back in that red shirt.'"

"It was just what I wanted to hear and Frank has been making me do things that I had never tried before. In particular, he has given me a lot of sprint training to give me just that extra half yard inside the box."

The red-haired Showers also picks up the point made by Hand about the Fourth Division being only a temporary home for the club that won the First Division Championship in 1948-49 and retained it the following season — a feat accomplished only by Manchester United, Wolves and Liverpool in post-War years.

"The tradition is all around you. And so, much more to the point, is the support. Even today in the Fourth Division, we attract crowds over 10,000 and are always there or thereabouts in having the biggest Fourth Division attendances of the day."

In those mighty years, of course, huge roaring crowds greeted the sparkling football of men like Dickinson, Jimmy Scouler, Jack Froggatt, Peter Harris and so many more. Hand sees talent of that quality emerging once again.

"This season we had goalkeeper Alan Knight and full-back Keith James in the England Youth side against Italy; then our centre-half Steve Foster was selected for the England Under-21 side against Holland before snow forced the game to

be called off.

"That is a remarkable record for a Fourth Division club and is yet another reason to show why we are coming off the ropes. The changing managers did not help in the bad years but now, under Jimmy Dickinson and Frank Burrows, we're far more settled. Every player goes on to the pitch now knowing his job... and that's a vital start."

"There's so much hard work being put in now to make this club rise again that you can't help feeling thrilled about it."

"The facilities are First Division; the support will be with more success; the young players are determined to show that they are in that class."

Hand is being rewarded for his loyalty in hard times with a testimonial match scheduled for April 18. Republic of Ireland manager Johnny Giles is putting together a side of players like Frank Stapleton, David O'Leary, Liam Brady, Mark Lawren-

son, Terry Conroy, Gerry Daly, Gerry Ryan and Jimmy Holmes while famous faces such as Malcolm MacDonald, Pat Jennings and Alan Ball will re-inforce Portsmouth.

Portsmouth is the kind of town where this showpiece cannot fail. "People here were brought up on the great names of football. They haven't seen that many at Fratton Park in recent years and for the town's sake, just as much as mine, it is going to be marvellous to see such players in action on our pitch once again."

A bright Summers' move—pushing Weatherley back

THE heartbreak of Charlie Young has become the breakthrough for Mark Weatherley, now Gillingham's outstanding centre-half and playing a vital role in one of the soundest defences in the entire Football League.

"It was the opening day of the League season and we were playing against Rotherham. Charlie went in for a tackle and we were horrified to see him finish stretched out on the pitch with a broken leg. The manager told me 'You take over his job'... and I've been there ever since," explains the 21-year-old Kentish youngster (right).

That moment of hurried touchline replanning from Gillingham manager Gerry Summers proved to be an inspiration. "To lose a player as dependable and experienced as Charlie was a dreadful blow but there is no doubt over the job that Ken has done — absolutely tremendous," says Summers.

Mark joined Gillingham directly he left his Ramsgate school and his future was quickly shaped by the unglamorous Medway club which has contested promotion with such determination for the past two seasons.

"I was only a few days past my 16th birthday when I had my first taste of League football: I came on as a substi-

tute against Bournemouth — but I was very much an attacking player then and this was the way it stayed until that fateful moment on the opening day of this season," says Mark.

"I'm really enjoying the experience. I've always played striker or attacking midfield and never thought of myself as a central-defender. Now it is the ONLY job I think about!"

That first experience of playing there against Rotherham could hardly have been tougher: because the Yorkshire side use the powerful former Wales Under-23 striker David Gwyther as their free scoring spearhead.

Mark survived it in a 0-0 stalemate and has since taken on some of the most publicised front men outside the First Division — like Ross Jenkins and Luther Blissett of Watford, John Toshack, Alan Waddle and Alan Curtis of Swansea.

"Most of the Third Division teams have a tall front man and so you get used to the constant challenges in the air. I'm a shade under six foot and so I have to make sure that I stay in there and battle it out from start to finish. I reckon I win my share!"

Third Division Gillingham's defensive record proves this to the hilt. Only Watford, Swansea and Bury managed to score three goals against

them as the Third Division's promotion duel went into its final stage while their 'goals against' column reflected almost Liverpool efficiency.

"It's quite a change from last season when we scored plenty and conceded too many," says manager Summers. "Now we are scoring less but making it really hard work for anyone to find their way into our net."

Gillingham almost had their hands on the their first experience of the Second Division until the final weeks of last season. Then two wins from their final 16 matches sent them sliding down from a top three place to seventh.

"We lacked experience and, frankly, I was short of a player or two," acknowledges Summers. Now he has an outstanding new full-back pairing of two players with First Division experience, Allan Barker (ex-Newcastle), John Sharp (ex-Southampton) and £50,000 Tony Funnell from Southampton.

"The experience of going so close for three-quarters of last season did us a lot of good. We had a young side with an average age of between 22 and 23 and they learned a great deal — as well as acquiring consistency which is all-important if you want to win something."

"This season, as a result of that



background and of continuing where we left off, confidence has been sky high.

"Crowds have hardly increased — although we've noticed more of our 'hard core' supporters travelling to away matches and we're grateful for that. But I can promise you that there is tremendous spirit in the dressing room. Not many of us know what it's like to play outside the Third and Fourth Divisions so promotion is an exciting prospect."

I'm very disappointed Nottingham Forest are the only British team left in the three European competitions. Being honest, it shows the lack of class European teams there are here at the moment... sides that can compete with the best on the Continent.

It's disheartening that Forest, alone, are flying the flag because a few years ago we would have had two or three clubs still involved... a sign of the times.

In Scotland, only Rangers and Celtic have made any sort of impression. It's disappointing because I think both Aberdeen and Hibernian have had pretty good teams, yet when it came to Europe it proved to be too much.

I believe there are two reasons for the failure at the highest level. First, our domestic competitions are becoming more difficult to win, and teams are having to play harder at home. Secondly, we must be prepared to study the Europeans more closely and learn from them.

Really, when you look at some of the teams still left in the three Cups, it's unbelievable our sides haven't done better. There are clubs there who wouldn't have got past the Quarter-Finals not too long ago.

I take nothing away from Liverpool, who deservedly won the European Cup in 1977 and 1978, but they didn't have too much to overcome. Before their fans write to me, study the teams they beat... FC Bruges at Wembley last year were nothing special, and even Borussia

'Britain should be

Mönchengladbach weren't exactly a stiff test for The Reds.

In days gone by, there were far more top clubs challenging for the European Cups, but not now. Malmö... Austria Vienna — how well do you think they'd do in our First Division? They'd struggle to get in the top six.

I like to see a variety of sides battling for honours, rather than the same one winning. I remember when Celtic won the Scottish Championship for nine successive seasons — that was good for Celtic, but not Scottish football in general.

We had a taste of U.E.F.A. Cup soccer last season and did well, surprising even ourselves, before we came up against Barcelona. It was lack of experience that let us down — at Villa Park, with Barcelona inspired by Johan Cruyff. I hate to admit it, but it was men against boys.

It's a different ball game in Europe, and I congratulate John Greig for steering Rangers to the Quarter-Finals in his first season as a manager. He's obviously done a lot of homework on their opponents and it was a tremendous feat to knock-out PSV Eindhoven and Juventus.

ANDY GRAY
Writes for you

Forest have had a relatively easy task in the European Cup against sides like AEK.



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EINTRACHT Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	
EINTRACHT Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	
BAHRAIN	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
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LEEDS Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
WALES Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
SAUDI ARABIA	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
SHEFFIELD Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	
LEICESTER Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	
LEICESTER Away		Boys	Youths	S/Mens	
WEST HAM Home		Boys	Youths	S/Mens	
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doing better in Europe'

The Europeans know, and use, all the tricks in the book. Being nice, I'd say they are professional, but you know what I mean. How many times have you seen Continental opposition commit foul after foul? Not bad fouls, but body-checks that stop the flow of the game. Trouble is, the Continental refs are so used to it they don't do anything!

Foreign sides get a fairer crack of the whip when they come here. We

hear about intimidating crowds... it's not the players they intimidate, it's the officials. I've been to some great stadiums, and it motivates players to perform in, for instance, Barcelona's marvellous Nou Camp stadium. It may have a different effect on the ref, though.

We also hear the English First Division is the best in the world. I wouldn't say the best, because it's impossible to make such a judg-

ment, but I believe it's the hardest to win. Not only are there a lot of good teams, but we also play eight more games than most Continentals. Not only that, we play more competitive games in general, with the League Cup, F.A. Cup as well as Europe.

Continental sides may be fresh for the European matches, yet for British teams there is no time to prepare properly... they're all part of the hard slog.

I'd love to see an English club playing in, say the Italian First Division for a season to see how they get on. It'll never happen, of course, but it'd be very interesting all the same.

Can Forest win the European Cup? I write this before the first-leg, but what I will say is the winners of this Semi-Final will win the competition.

Wouldn't it have been great to see a Forest/Rangers clash? We haven't had too many really big English-Scottish ties over the years, although I shall never forget Celtic beating Leeds when Leeds were THE team.

Who would have won if Forest had met Rangers? Listen — I prefer the quiet life, so I'm skipping that one! But I'd have loved to have seen the ties...

I believe the 80's will start with much the same situation as we have now, with West German and English clubs dominating. After that we may see some new faces coming along.

The teams that have been at the

top will have to rebuild. For instance, Juventus seem over the top, and Real Madrid have never recaptured their European Cup form of the 50's. Hopefully they could come back. Scotland, too deserve a happier time in the 80's.

This Saturday (April 14th) we face Leeds United at Elland Road and we're still chasing a U.E.F.A. Cup spot. Leeds are one of the three teams we've thrown a 2-0 lead away against at Villa Park, the others being Manchester United and Spurs. Two-nil up at home and you don't win — that's criminal and there has been some hard talking done about it.

It was dreadful to lose to Spurs in front of our fans; leading by two goals, we were home and dry, yet lost 3-2. We could be looking back on that game with regret if we miss out on Europe. We'd been going well until then, with one defeat in 11 matches, I think.

Join me again in a fortnight.

And Good



I fancied Rangers to beat Cologne, but the Glasgow club did well all the same.



'It was a great experience playing against sides like Athletic Bilbao.'

'FULHAM MAKE WORK A PLEASURE'

says striker
Chris Guthrie

CHRIS Guthrie is enjoying his football at Fulham more than ever before.

The big striker has taken on a new lease of life since arriving at Craven Cottage in a £70,000 move from Swindon, last September. Match days can't come round quickly enough for him.

"This is the best move I've ever made in my life," claims the 25-year-old Geordie, who has also played for Newcastle, Southend, and Sheffield United.

But Guthrie admits he thought long and hard before deciding to join the Craven Cottage club, who have emerged from a massive internal upheaval that at one time threatened their future, to mount a strong challenge for promotion.

'Attention'

"I knew Fulham were after me for quite a while before the deal went through, so naturally I paid close attention to the way things were going with them.

"A lot of people were tipping them for relegation. And when they made a bad start to the season it seemed the forecasters might be right.

"That's when I had doubts about joining them, for I did not fancy playing in another struggling side.

"But Fulham pulled round to show their true form. I was convinced enough to sign for them — and I'm glad I did.

"It's a tremendous club, where

everyone is friendly and goes out of their way to help you. It makes going to work every day a pleasure.

"The problems they have had are publicised enough. But there's no point in dwelling on them, for they are all in the past. The club is booming now and there's only one way we are going — upwards.

"Manager Bobby Campbell has done a remarkable job in rebuilding the side and he has put together a fine squad of players.

"He has bought well in bringing people like Kevin Lock, John Beck, Peter Marinello and Peter Kitchen to the club.

"I'm really looking forward to building an understanding with Kitchen and there's no doubt in my mind we can form a formidable striking partnership.

"He is a proven goalscorer, a player you can rely on to get at least 20 a season.

"I reckon to hit that target myself. That will give us 40 goals for a start — and that's got to be a reason for optimism.

"My game can only improve under Bobby Campbell, he is sensible enough to use my strengths.

"I'm not the type to show tight control on the ground and beat three



or four players in a confined area, although one or two managers I've played for have wanted me to do that.

"I'm at my best when the ball is in the air. Bobby realises this and tries to encourage everybody in the side to throw high balls into the box for me to battle for.

"It's this forthright approach from the boss that has transformed Fulham into, probably, the surprise packet of the season.

"Our sustained challenge for promotion from the Second Division must have taken most people in the game by surprise.

"We stumbled last month and that probably cost us our chance of going up.

"But I'm certain it's only a temporary setback. With the players we have got — and the confidence now flowing through them — we will be firm favourites to clinch promotion next season.

"I can promise you this. If anybody backs us to pull it off — they will get a good run for their money.

"This is the best team I have played in. I'm grateful to Fulham for signing me and am determined to repay them by helping them back into the First Division."

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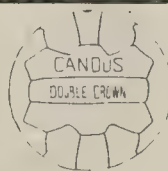


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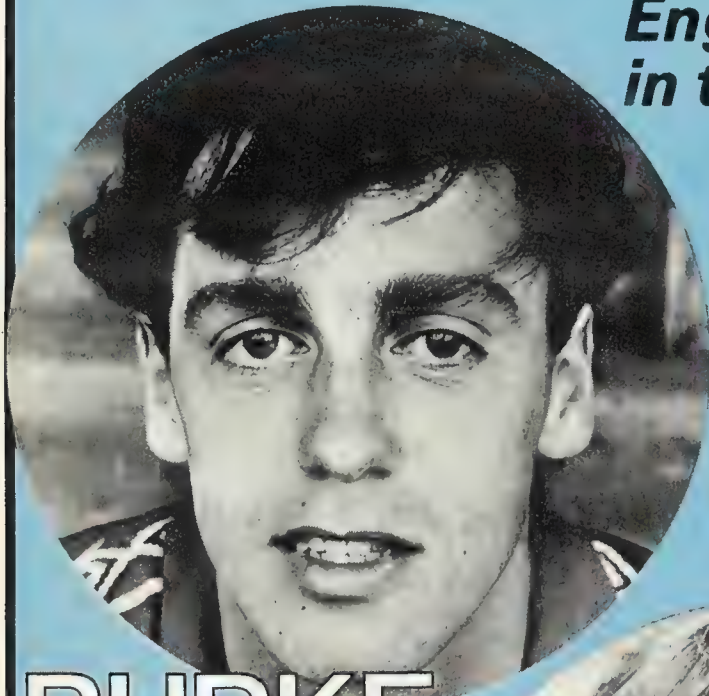
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The three candidates for England's number three shirt in the near future



BURKE

MICK MILLS, the Ipswich skipper and current England left-back, has a problem. No, correction. He has three problems . . . in alphabetical order David Burke, Kenny Sansom and Derek Statham. Which means that England manager Ron Greenwood isn't going to have left-back ulcers in the foreseeable future.

It must be years since England had it so good for young number threes, and a certain way to provoke a good argument in soccer company is to suggest that one of the young trio is ahead of the others.

Burke's manager Ian Greaves at Bolton, and Terry Venables, Sansom's boss at Crystal Palace, won't be drawn. Ron Atkinson, Statham's guv'nor at West Bromwich, is different.

"He's the finest left-back in Britain," insists Atkinson. "No question about it. The Professional Footballers' Association members voted him into their First Division team last month, for the second year in succession.

"If that doesn't speak for itself, then I suggest somebody should ask Steve Coppell what he thinks about Statham. Coppell's England's current right-winger, and Derek played him out of the game when they faced each other.

"For consistency there can't be a better defender. His touch on the ball is magic. So is his control. He gets forward, he gets back. To be a key man in a great team at his age, you've got to be good. And he is.

"More than that, his attitude to the game is superb. He never stops wanting to learn."

Greaves spoke for Venables and Atkinson as well as himself when he said: "I reckon my lad David Burke is going to be a great player, but so are the other two."

left-backs, Tony Dunne who's 37 and David. So I told them that they were going to share the job. I've pulled David out on three occasions, but each time I've had to put him back. Given another year and there'll be no moving him.

"He's tall. He's slim. He's quick. He looks casual, but he isn't. Like all great games players, he seems to have all the time in the world. He's never in a hurry. He's got good balance, and he's a fierce competitor.

"David's got a level head, and everything going for him."

Down at Selhurst Park, in London's Southern suburbs,

former England Youth captain Ken Sansom is the idol of the fans. Not surprisingly, for stardom has been his destiny since he joined the playing staff. Not 21 until next September, he has so much behind him, and so much more in front of him.

In less than two months beyond his 20th birthday he reached the milestone of 100 League games. With a modesty that matches his ability, Camberwell-born Sansom acknowledges the debt he owes to Terry Venables.

"He has that rare gift of making players perform."

And Venables repays the compliment. "You don't have to teach Kenny anything. Just tell him the way you want him to play it."

There was a time, some two years or so ago, when Palace's financial situation was less healthier than it is now, when a sizeable offer to Selhurst would have taken Sansom away. The Palace board would not have been able to reject the bid.

But not now. A king's ransom would not buy him. He has been likened to Terry Cooper, the former Leeds full-back who played for England in the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. Sansom shares Cooper's eye for an opening 20 yards ahead of the action, and would be a favourite in any sprinting competition for full-backs.

Burke, Sansom, Statham. You pay your money and you take your choice. Lucky Ron Greenwood. He'll have the choice for years . . . for nothing.



SANSOM

Sansom and Statham have already won England Under-21 caps. Burke is a regular in the Youth side.

They are each full-backs in the modern manner. They are all-round footballers. They can attack as well as defend and Burke, particularly, is almost as good a performer in midfield.

At 18, Burke is the youngest. It is only this season that he has really come to the fore, as manager Greaves has intended all along.

Bolton's boss says: "I've handled a lot of good left-backs, Trevor Cherry and Derek Parkin among them, and young David is one of the best I've seen.

"I saw him playing in Cheshire when he was only 15, and I knew he was something special."

Burke has been nursed. Deliberately. Greaves reveals: "At the start of the season I'd got two



STATHAM



Last year they won the League Cup at Old Trafford, but this season Forest didn't need a replay. Here, they pose with the Cup they retained.

FOREST MAKE LEAGUE CUP HISTORY



A superb goal by any standards... David Peach rounds Peter Shilton to put Saints 1-0 up. Credit, too, to Alan Ball, whose first-time pass split the Forest defence to lay on the goal.



LEFT . . . Saints' defender Chris Nicholl hesitates and it proves fatal. A couple of seconds later Garry Birtles nipped in to score Forest's equaliser.

BELOW . . . There's only one Garry Birtles — but that was enough; here, the 22-year-old striker calmly slots home his second goal.



THE 19th and surely the best-ever League Cup Final produced another Wembley hero in two-goal Garry Birtles. In the reserves at the beginning of the season, Birtles inspired Nottingham Forest to their 3-2 win over Southampton in a Final that was a credit to both sides.



It hasn't been the happiest of seasons for Tony Woodcock. Last term he was scoring regularly and deservedly won his first England cap. Yet 1978/79 has seen Woodcock struggle to find the goal-touch. Brian Clough even dropped him, but Tony responded to show his best form. His goal against Saints made it 3-1 and here he latches on to Archie Gemmill's pass to fire past Terry Gennoe. When Clough signed Trevor Francis for £1 million, the immediate question was: who stands down? It's a question that still hasn't really been answered.

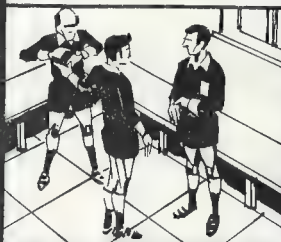
SHOOT!



YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1 The score is 3-0 when you end the match. In the dressing-room both linesmen point out that you stopped the game four minutes early. Should you: (a) take no action or (b) go back and play the four minutes?



2 You drop the ball. One player kicks wildly, misses the ball but makes contact with an opponent. Do you: (a) re-drop the ball, (b) award a free-kick or (c) take no action?



3 A defender obstructs and pushes an opponent at the same time in the penalty-area. Should you award: (a) a penalty, or (b) indirect free-kick?



4 A defender handles the ball inside his penalty-area ten yard arc. You award a free-kick. Are you right or wrong?



5 The ball is accidentally trapped between two players who have fallen to the ground trying to kick the ball. Should you: (a) take no action or (b) stop play and drop the ball?



ANSWERS

Right: 1. Go back and play the four minutes (b). Although this occurred in a Football League match this season between Crystal Palace and Fulham, I had never known it to happen before. When you are refereeing you should always look to both linesmen five minutes from the end and they will signal how much time there is to go. Therefore you have three officials' times — and six watches! 2. Award a free-kick (b). 3. A penalty-kick (a). 4. 5. Stop play and drop the ball (b).

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



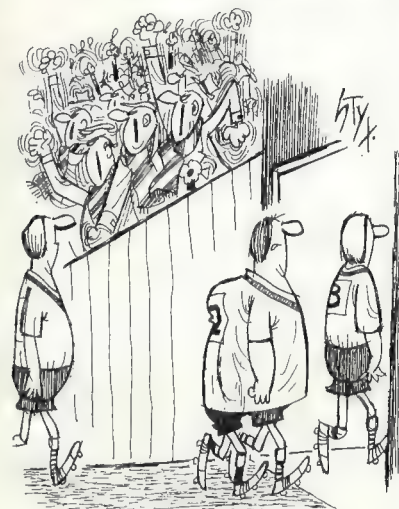
"I get fed up with the way the boss chops and changes our positions after a bad first-half"



This week Blackburn's GLENN KEELEY selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



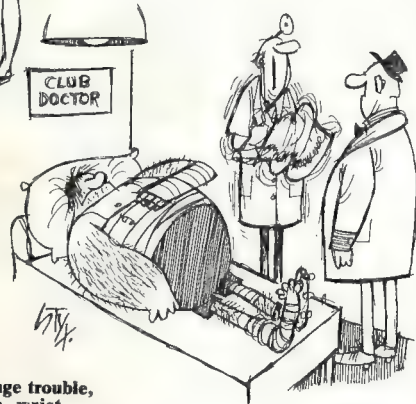
"The only trophy the club has ever won. Like to take a look?"



"We're nearly there, ref"



"I ran out of wool"



"Two broken ribs, cartilage trouble, sprained ankle, broken wrist — otherwise he's fit"

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'EASTER CAN MEAN A HEADACHE FOR MANAGERS'

EASTER is probably the most crucial period in the soccer calendar for those clubs chasing the League Championship, promotion or fighting against the big drop.

It's often shock time, when the form book goes for a Burton and you get surprising results.

A few seasons ago the lead at the top of the First Division changed hands half-a-dozen times in 11 days from the start of the Easter holiday.

With three matches and six points to be won or lost in four or five days this is make-or-break time, even more so than Christmas.

I recall at Leeds a few years ago Don Revie summoning us after the Easter games and telling us to pull ourselves together.

At one stage of the season we were nine points clear at the top of the table. But a bad spell leading up to the holiday saw that advantage cut by Liverpool until they were within catching distance.

We eventually won the title, but it was very tight at the finish.

The biggest headache for managers at this time are injuries. Even minor knocks can take a few days to clear up, so chances are if you miss one game you are likely to be out for all three.

Prospered

This is why the squad system is so important and why Liverpool have prospered.

They have men like Dave Johnson, Alan Kennedy and Davie Fairclough on the sidelines ready to step in whenever necessary.

At the moment The Reds seem the most likely club to win the title, but it's too early to "write off" West Brom, Everton, Leeds, Arsenal or reigning Champions Nottingham Forest.

If Liverpool slip-up over the Bank Holiday and Albion, Forest or any of the others gain maximum points the whole Championship race will be thrown open again.

At the other end of the scale, the First Division relegation issue could become a lot clearer by the end of next week.

Chelsea and Birmingham are doomed, and as I write either Q.P.R., Derby, Wolves or Bolton are likely to fill the third relegation spot to the Second Division.

As a professional footballer I must admit I don't enjoy Bank Holiday times and would welcome a break from the game.

Three tough League matches in

almost as many days is unfair on players. You are mentally and physically shattered. I know every club is in the same position, but the situation can't be good for football.

Apart from the injury problems that can cripple teams, it's tremendously difficult for a manager to lift his lads overnight after a defeat and expect them to go out and turn in a good performance next day.

Then there's the travelling. I realise it's part of the job but sometimes clubs are on the move for days on end. Hardly ideal preparation.

This is probably one reason for the sensational results that occur at these times. It's strange how a team can win heavily at home one day and then lose away by an equally

high score 24 hours later.

Manchester United usually stay away the whole week at these times. This Easter we have to report to Old Trafford on Good Friday morning. Then we are off to Mottram Hall Hotel in Presbury. It's a delightful spot. I'd stayed there on Friday nights before home matches while I was still living in Leeds.

I don't mind spending a couple of nights away before a match. I am in favour of this, but prefer to stay away no longer.

Living together gets the team in the right frame of mind. You think about the game, talk about it. The boss ensures you eat the right food and get proper rest.

At home there's always the temp-



my soccer world
**GORDON
McQUEEN**



A minor knock during an opening Bank Holiday game can rule a player out of the rest.



Maximum points for West Brom (stripes) or Leeds could throw the Championship race wide open.

tation to have a night out or have friends over for a visit.

While I'd welcome a break at Christmas and Easter I can't see it ever happening. Clubs get their biggest gates of the season and people usually unable to see a game on a Saturday can watch their local side.

There's no way Manchester United can take it easy this Easter. We start our holiday programme on Wednesday (April 11th) with a home match against Bolton, a game brought forward from Good Friday.

Then we travel to Liverpool on Saturday (April 14th) and play Coventry at Old Trafford on Easter Monday (April 16th).

There's not much more I can say about Liverpool.

As you know, they slaughtered us at Old Trafford on Boxing Day and were well-worth their 3-0 win.

United had a few injuries and Dave Sexton was forced to bring in a couple of youngsters, defender Tom Sloan and midfielder player Tom Connell.

They played well enough, it was the more experienced regulars who let the side down badly.

I've no happy memories of Anfield at all, but have a feeling United could spring one of those Easter surprises and win, or at least pick up a point there. We've been so inconsistent this term anything could happen.

I must take a lot of the blame for our defeat on Boxing Day. In fact I'd been unhappy with my own form up to the start of the New Year.

The main reason for my indifferent displays? That £500,000 price tag. I was desperately trying to justify that huge fee and attempted to add a few frills to my game.

Perhaps I tried too hard. Suddenly I couldn't perform all the things I had previously been good at. My confidence plummeted . . . I became hesitant, and even made a

mess of the basics of the game.

Now I'm more positive. My confidence has returned. I've cut out the fancy footwork.

What bothered me most was I was made to look a mug by strikers, such as Watford's Luther Blissett, who scored the goals that knocked United out of the League Cup.

My performances were becoming unprofessional and I knew I had to knuckle down, work harder and go back to playing my natural game.

I wasn't all that bright against Coventry at Highfield Road on March 20th, when they beat United 4-3.

We threw it away by allowing The Sky Blues to take a two goal lead within the first eight minutes. At one stage we were 4-1 down.

At least United showed they still had spirit by fighting their way back to 4-3 and may well have snatched an equaliser if the match had gone on longer.

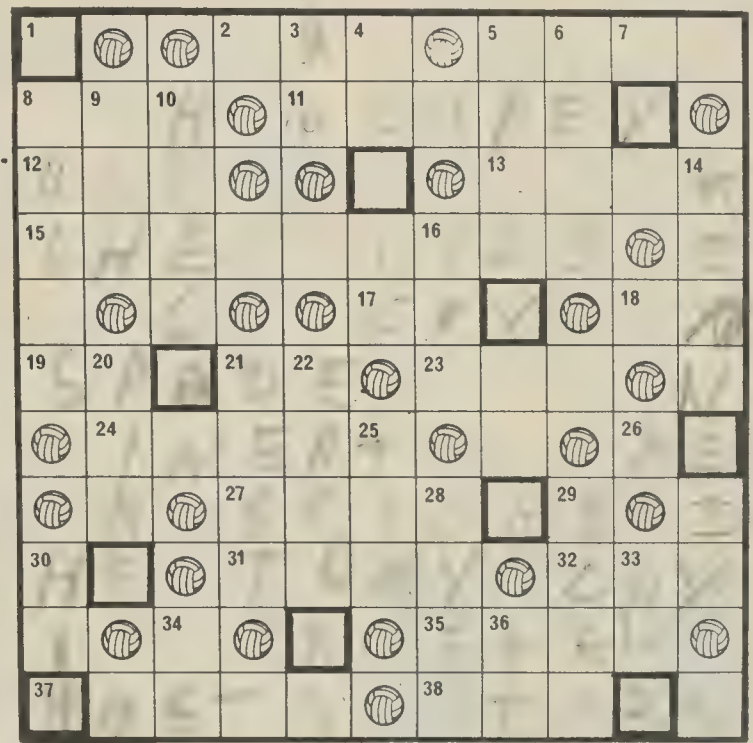
Despite our form that night and overall inconsistency this season, I fully expect us to beat Coventry next Monday. I will be very disappointed if we don't.

Anyway, may I wish all SHOOT readers a very Happy Easter. Get to a match if you can and spare a thought for the two teams on the park. Remember it's no holiday for them, or the referee and linesmen.

Eric McCormack

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Birmingham City defender. Answers on page 42.



ACROSS:—

- (2) Project.
- (5) One of the "Taylors" of West Ham.
- (8) ---well; ground of Barnsley.
- (11) Nickname of Portsmouth.
- (12) Stenho---muir play at Ochilview Park.
- (13) Ewood ---, home of Blackburn Rovers.
- (15) --- United, are nicknamed The Blades.
- (17) -ovent-- City, The Sky Blues.
- (18) P--tlottyn.
- (19) The groundsman would undoubtedly use this tool sometimes.
- (23) C--pp-e-ow Park, home of Morton.
- (24) Slow or sluggish.
- (26) Joe --rcer, Footballer of the Year in 1949/50.
- (27) Cam----- United play at Abbey Stadium.
- (30) The -orn-ts, Watford's nickname.
- (31) One of the "Browns" of W.B.A.
- (32) Sammy M-llr-- of Manchester United.
- (35) Po-t V---. (English Div. Four) Aristocrat from the omissions.
- (37) Support for the crossbar!
- (38) Anti-slip boot devices.

DOWN:—

- (1) Stirs into action.
- (3) --ton Park, home West Ham United.
- (4) Invigorating influence --- or medicine.
- (5) Putting on or administering.
- (6) Go in front.
- (7) --- United, from Somerset Park.
- (9) Jack ---urst of Sunderland.
- (10) Kevin ---, Norwich City 'keeper.
- (14) Ray ---, Liverpool midfielder player.
- (16) Gianni Riv---, European Footballer of the Year in 1969.
- (20) Geoff ---, West Ham midfielder.
- (21) Economically, some clubs find themselves in ---.
- (22) Mistakes.
- (25) Brian S-e---, Luton Town striker.
- (28) Gr--t- Roa- (Crews). Colours from the omissions.
- (29) Rac--o--se Ground (Wrexham). Colour of unbleached linen from these omissions.
- (30) The femur forms part of this joint.
- (33) --- Show Ground, Scunthorpe United.
- (34) Terry Br--ley of Charlton.
- (36) Bill Sl--er, Footballer of the Year in 1959/60.

RESULTS... SCORERS... TEAM LINE-UPS

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

THIRD DIVISION

(Continued)

SHEFFIELD WED (1) 2 (Owen, Wylde)
GILLINGHAM (1) 1 (Westwood) 8,205
 Sheff. W: Turner; Shirliff, Rushbury, Mullen, Pickering, Johnson, Wylde, Taylor (Portfield), Owen, Lowey, Hornsby.
 Gillingham: Hillyard; Sharpe, Barker, Overton, Weatherley, Crabbe, Nicholl, White, Price, Westwood, Richardson (Hughes).

FOURTH DIVISION

BARNLEY (1) 1 (Graham) 7,599
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0
 Barnsley: Springett; Collins, Chambers, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Little, Clarke, Graham, Millar, Bell.
 Bournemouth: Allen; Cunningham, Ferns, Impay, Brown (R), Miller, Borthwick, MacDougall, Scott, Weeks, Massey (Johnson).

DARLINGTON (0) 0
YORK (1) 1 (Staniforth) 1,173
 Darlington: Burleigh; Crosson, Cochrane, Nattress, Craig, Stone, Taylor, Ferguson, Lyons, Wann, Walsh (Seal).
 York: Neenan; Kay, Walsh, Pugh, Faulkner, Clements, Ford, Randall, Loggie (Wellings), McDonald, Staniforth.

HALIFAX 0
DONCASTER 0 1,658
 Halifax: Kilner; Bradley, Dunleavy, Smith, Trainer, Burke, Firth, Kennedy, Mountford, Loska, Johnson.
 Doncaster: Peacock; Hemsley, Snodin, Flanagan, Bradley, Olney, Laidlaw, Owen, French, Lally (Cox), Pugh.



Joe Bolton scored Sunderland's winning goal against Wrexham.

NORTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Reilly 2)
HUDDERSFIELD (0) 3 (Holmes 2, Robins) 1,623
 Northampton: Poole; Geldmintis, Mead, Saunders, Robertson, Bryant, Farrington, Williams (Wassall), Froggatt, Reilly, McCaffrey.
 Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Branagan, Holmes, Hanvey, Sutton, Fletcher, Hart, Cowling, Robins, Howey.

WIMBLEDON 0
NEWPORT 0 2,980
 Wimbledon: Goddard; Bryant, Haverson, Ketteridge, Galvin, Perkins, Leslie, Galliers, Denny, Cork, Parsons (Driver).
 Newport: Plumley; Warriner, Byrne (Relish), Davies, Oakes, Bruton, Moore, Lowndes, Goddard, Tynan, Bailey.

Postponed: Port Vale v. Portsmouth; Rochdale v. Wigan.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

EUROPEAN CUP

Quarter-Final first-leg

NOTTM FOREST (1) 4 (Birtles, Robertson pen., Gemmill, Lloyd)
GRASSHOPPERS (1) 1 (Sulser) 31,949
 Nottm F: Shilton; Anderson, Clark, McGovern, Lloyd, Needham, O'Neill, Gemmill, Birtles, Woodcock, Robertson.
 Grasshoppers: Berbig; Wehrli, Heinz Hermann, Montandon, Hey, Bauer, Meyer, Eigl, Sulser, Ponte, Herbert Hermann.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Quarter-Final first-leg

IPSWICH (0) 2 (Gates 2)
BARCELONA (0) 1 (Vigo) 28,000
 Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Tibbott, Mills, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Brazil, Gates, Geddis (Hunter).
 Barcelona: Artola; Zuviria, Miguely, Olmo, De la Cruz, Neeskens (Costas), Vigo, Heredia, Krankl, Asensi, Martinez.

U.E.F.A. CUP

Quarter-Final first-leg

MAN. CITY (1) 1 (Channon)
BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH (0) 1 (Lienen) 39,005
 Man. C: Corrigan; Donachie, Power, Reid, Watson, Booth, Channon, Viljoen, Kidd, Hartford, Barnes.
 Monchengladbach: Kneib; Schaffer, Hannes, Schafer, Klinkhammer, Bruns, Simonsen, Kulik, Del Hays, Nielsen, Lienen.

RED STAR BELGRADE (0) 1 (Savic)
W.B.A. (0) 0 95,000
 Red Star: Stojanovic; Jovanovic, Krmpotic, Muslin, Miletovic, Jurisic, Petrovic (Milosavljevic), Blagojevic, Savic, Milovanovic, Sestic (Simic).
 W.B.A.: Godden; Batson, Statham, Trewick, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown (A), Regis, Brown (T), Cunningham.

FIRST DIVISION

ASTON VILLA (3) 3 (Gray, Swain, Jones o.g.)
BOLTON (0) 0 28,053
 Villa: Rimmer; Gidman, Williams, Gregory, Evans, Cropley, Craig, Little, Gray (Deehan), Cowans, Swain.
 Bolton: McDonagh; Nicholson, Dunne, Greaves, Jones, Walsh, Morgan, Burke (Whatmore), Gowling, Worthington, McNab.

NORWICH (0) 0
WOLVES (0) 0 15,427
 Norwich: Hansbury; Bond, Symonds, McGuire, Reeves, Powell, Neighbour, Fashanu, Robson, Paddon, Peters.
 Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, McAlle, Berry, Hibbitt, Daley, Rafferty, Richards (Patching), Carr.

SECOND DIVISION

SUNDERLAND (1) 1 (Bolton)
WREXHAM (0) 0 25,017
 Sunderland: Siddall; Henderson, Bolton, Arnott, Clarke, Elliott, Chisholm, Rostron (Greig), Entwistle, Buckley, Rowell.
 Wrexham: Davies; Sutton, Whittle, Gegiel-ski, Roberts, Giles, Shinton, Cartwright, Buxton, Lyons, Fox.

THIRD DIVISION

CHESTER (0) 5 (Henderson 3, Edwards, Phillips)
LINCOLN (1) 1 (Sunley) 2,585
 Chester: Lloyd; Raynor, Walker, Storton, Jeffries, Oakes, Sutcliffe, Jones, Edwards, Phillips, Henderson.
 Lincoln: Grotier; Fleming, Leigh, Watson, Smith, Hubbard, Guest, Harding, Sunley, Hartford, Cockerill.

CHESTERFIELD (0) 2 (Moss, Fern pen.)
SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (Tong) 4,324

Chesterfield: Letheran; Tarrt, Buxton, Hunter, Cottam, Proffett, Heppollette (Kowalski), Moss, Salmons, Walker.
 Shrewsbury: Wardle; Leonard, Larkin, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Chapman, Atkins, Tong, Biggins, Maguire.

OXFORD (0) 0
SOUTHEND (0) 0 2,913
 Oxford: Burton; McIntosh, Fogg, Briggs, Bodel, Jeffrey, McGrogan, Taylor, Berry, Seacole, Duncan.
 Southend: Cawston; Moody, Yates, Stead, Hadley, Cusack, Morris, Pountney, Parker, Dudley, Laverick.

FOURTH DIVISION

BRADFORD (0) 0
ALDERSHOT (1) 2 (Needham, Dungworth) 3,866
 Bradford: Downsborough; Reaney, Podd, Johnson, Baines, Wood, Robertson, Dolan, Cook, McNiven, Hutchins.
 Aldershot: Johnson; Edwards, Howitt, Longhorn (Dixon), Youlden, Jopling, Crosby, Brodie, Needham, Dungworth, McGregor.

HEREFORD (0) 1 (Emery)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 0
 Hereford: Hughes; Price, Burrows, Cornes, Layton, Emery, Bailey, Hendry, Crompton, Gould, Phillips.
 Hartlepool: Richardson; Smith (G), Gorry, Lawrence, Brooks, Ayre, Lineacre, Goldthorpe, Crumplin, Houchen, Loadwick.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

MOTHERWELL (0) 0
DUNDEE U (3) 4 (Sturrock 2, Narey, Stewart pen.) 2,653
 Motherwell: Rennie; McLeod, Kennedy, Smith (Larnach), Dempsey, Wark, Rafferty (Leonard), Pettigrew, Somerville, Clinging, Donnelly.
 Dundee U: McAlpine; Stewart, Stark, Phillip, Hegarty, Narey, Holt, Sturrock, Dodds, Fleming, Kirkwood.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

THIRD DIVISION

COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Gough)
MANSFIELD (0) 0 2,866
 Colchester: Walker; Cook, Wright, Hodge, Wignall, Gough, Packer, Foley, Dyer, Lee, Allinson.
 Mansfield: New; Dawkins, Foster (B), Curtis, Saxby (M), Bird, Hamilton, Carter, McClelland, Martin, Miller (Allen).

FOURTH DIVISION

DONCASTER (1) 1 (Cox)
WIMBLEDON (0) 0 1,927
 Doncaster: Peacock; Olney, Snodin, Meagan, Bradley, Flanagan, Laidlaw, French, Cox, Cannell, Pugh.
 Wimbledon: Goddard; Bryant, Eames, Ketteridge, Galvin, Perkins, Leslie (Driver), Galliers, Denny, Cork, Parsons.

STOCKPORT (0) 0
READING (0) 0 3,560
 Stockport: Lawson; Thorpe (Henson), Rutter, Edwards, Park, Fogarty, Prudham, Summerbee, Bradd, Armstrong, Lee.
 Reading: Death; Hetzke, White, Sanchez, Hicks, Bennett, Earles, Kearney, Kearns, Wanklyn, Lewis.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

F.A. CUP

Fifth Round

W.B.A. (1) 1 (Brown, A.)
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Boyer) 30,712
 W.B.A.: Godden; Batson, Statham, Brown (T), Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown (A), Regis, Mills, Cunningham.
 Southampton: Gennoe; Golac, Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Hayes (Andruszewski), Holmes, Curran.



Wolves' Bill Rafferty was on the mark in the F.A. Cup tie v. Shrewsbury.

Sixth Round

IPSWICH (0) 0
LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (Dalglish) 31,322
 Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Gates (Brazil), Woods.
 Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Hughes, Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Johnson, Case, McDermott, Souness.

TOTTENHAM (1) 1 (Ardiles)
MAN. UTD. (0) 1 (Thomas) 51,800
 Tottenham: Kendall; Naylor, McAllister, Holmes, Lacy, Perryman, Pratt, Ardiles, Jones, Hoddie, Villa (Taylor).
 Man. U.: Bailey; Nicholl, Albiston, McLroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff (J), Ritchie (Jordan), Grimes, Thomas.

WOLVES (0) 1 (Rafferty)
SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (Atkins pen.) 40,946
 Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, McAlle, Berry, Hibbitt, Daley, Rafferty, Richards (Patching), Carr.
 Shrewsbury: Wardle; Hayes, Leonard, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Chapman, Atkins, Tong, Biggins, Maguire.

FIRST DIVISION

ARSENAL (2) 2 (Rix, Stapleton)
BRISTOL C (0) 0 24,408
 Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Talbot, O'Leary, Walford, Brady, Heeley (McDermott), Stapleton, Price, Rix.
 Bristol C: Shaw; Sweeney, Gillies, Gow (Ritchie), Collier, Hunter, Tainton, Garland, Royle, Mann, Whitehead.

BIRMINGHAM 0
COVENTRY 0 17,311
 Birmingham: Freeman; Page, Calderwood, Towers, Gallagher, Tarantini, Ainscow, Buckley, Givens, Dillon, Barrowclough.
 Coventry: Sealey; Coop, McDonald, Yorath, Holton, Hagan, Green, Wallace, Thompson, Blair, Hutchison.

DERBY (0) 0
LEEDS (0) 1 (Hawley) 22,800
 Derby: Langan; Buckley, Daly, Webb, Wicks, Clark, Powell, Caskey, Duncan (Crawford), Greenwood.
 Leeds: Harvey; Cherry, Gray (F), Flynn, Hart, Madeley (Gray E), Harris, Hird, Hawley, Currie, Graham.

EVERTON (1) 1 (Telfer)
NOTTM FOREST (1) 1 (Barrett) 37,435
 Everton: Wood; Higgins, Heard, Lyons, Wright, Ross, King, Dobson, Latchford, Telfer (Walsh), Thomas.
 Nottm F: Shilton; Barrett, Bowyer, McGovern, Lloyd, Needham, Francis, O'Hare, Birtles, Woodcock, Robertson.

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 2 (Proctor, Burns)
ASTON VILLA (0) 0 16,562
 Middlesbrough: Platt; Craggs, Johnson, Mahoney, Boam, McAndrew, Hodgson, Proctor, Ashcroft, Burns, Armstrong.
 Villa: Rimmer; Linton, Williams, Gregory, Evans, Cropley, Craig, Little, Gray, Cowans, Swain.

NORWICH (1) 2 (Fashanu, Peters) 19,071
CHELSEA (0) 0
 Norwich: Hansbury; Bond, Symonds, McGuire, Hoadley, Powell, Neighbour, Reeves, Fashanu, Paddon (Robson), Peters.
 Chelsea: Borota (Langley); Wilkins (G), Stride, Bannion, Sitton, Nutton, Aylott, Wilkins (R), Harris, Langley (Bumstead), Walker.

SECOND DIVISION

BRISTOL R (1) 1 (Williams)
LEICESTER (1) 1 (Smith pen.) 6,381
 Bristol R: Thomas; Day, Bater, Emmanuel, Taylor, Aitken, Dennehy (Mabbutt), Williams, White, Staniforth, Clarke.
 Leicester: Wallington; Whitworth, Rofe, Williams, O'Neill, May, Goodwin, Buchanan, Henderson, Smith, Christie (Ridley).

BURNLEY (0) 1 (Noble)
PRESTON (0) 1 (Bruce) 15,175
 Burnley: Stevenson; Scott, Brennan, Noble, Thomson, Rodaway, Jakub, Ingham (Morley), Fletcher, Kindon, James.
 Preston: Tunks; Taylor, Cameron, Doyle, Baxter, O'Riordan, Coleman, Haslegrave, Robinson, Potts, Bruce.

CAMBRIDGE (0) 0
NOTTS CO (0) 1 (Mann) 5,758
 Cambridge: Webster; Graham, Buckley, Stringer, Fallon, Cozens, Christie (Garner), Spriggs, Murray, Finney, Leach.
 Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Blockley, Stubbs, Mann, McCulloch, Masson, Hooks (McVay), Hunt, Vinter.

CARDIFF (1) 2 (Bishop, Stevens)
NEWCASTLE (0) 1 (Connolly) 11,116
 Cardiff: Healey; Jones, Sullivan, Pontin, Dwyer, Campbell, Grapes, Bishop, Moore, Stevens, Buchanan.
 Newcastle: Hardwick; Brownlie, Mitchell, Martin, Barton, Nattrass, Shoulder, Walker (Suggett), Withe, Hibbitt, Connolly.

CHARLTON (2) 2 (Warman, Hales)
MILLWALL (3) 4 (Walker 2, Mitchell, Seaman) 9,908
 Charlton: Johns; Penfold, Berry, Brisley, Shipperley, Gritt, Warman, Robinson, Hales, Madden, Peacock.

Millwall: Cuff; Donaldson, Gregory, Chambers, Kitchener, Blyth, Chatterton, Seaman, Mitchell, Walker, Mehmet (O'Callaghan).

FULHAM 0
C. PALACE 0 16,654
 Fulham: Peyton; Strong, Lock, Bullivant, Money, Gale, Marinello, Beck, Guthrie, Kitchen, Evanson.
 Palace: Burridge; Hinshelwood, Sansom, Kember, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Murphy, Swindlehurst, Walsh, Hilaire.

LUTON (1) 2 (Turner, Hill)
ORIENT (1) 1 (Moore) 6,003
 Luton: Findlay; Stevens, Aizlewood, Donaghy, Turner, Hill, West, Carr, Taylor, Hatton, Stein.
 Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Greulich, Went, Gray, Chiedoie, Hughton, Mayo, Moores, Coates.



John Matthews had a fine game as he helped Sheffield United to a valuable point against Stoke City.

SHEFF. UTD 0
STOKE 0 20,512
 Sheff. U: Conroy; Speight, Garner, Kenworthy, McPhail, Guy, Matthews, Sabella, Flood, Brown, Hamson.
 Stoke: Jones; Marsh, Scott, Kendall, Dodd, Doyle, Randall, Irvine, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Richardson.

SUNDERLAND (2) 3 (Rowell pen., Bolton, Rostron)
OLDHAM (0) 0 25,090
 Sunderland: Siddall; Henderson, Bolton, Arnott, Clarke, Elliott, Chisholm, Rostron, Entwistle, Buckley, Rowell.
 Oldham: McDonnell; Wood, Edwards, Bell, Hicks, Hurst, Keegan, Jordan, Young, Chapman, Blair.

WEST HAM 0
BRIGHTON 0 35,802
 West Ham: Parkes; Lampard, Brush, Curbishley, Martin, Bonds, Holland, Devonshire, Cross, McDowell, Robson.
 Brighton: Steele; Cattlin, Williams, Horton, Rollings, Lawrenson, Ryan, Ward (Poskett), Maybank, Clarke, O'Sullivan.

WREXHAM (1) 2 (Whittle, Buxton)
BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Brotherston) 9,407
 Wrexham: Davies; Sutton, Cegielski, Jones, Roberts, Giles, Shinton, Cartwright, Lyons (Buxton), Whittle, Fox.
 Blackburn: Ramsbottom; Rathbone, Morley (Garner), Metcalfe, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherton, Round, Radford, Birchenall, Wagstaffe.

THIRD DIVISION

BLACKPOOL 0
PLYMOUTH 0 4,879
 Blackpool: Hesford; Malone, Pashley, Thompson, Suddaby, McEwan, Kerr, Jones, Spence, Davidson, Weston.
 Plymouth: Hodge; Clarke, McNeill, Harrison, James, Johnson, Bason, Megson, Binney, Trusson, Rogers.

BRENTFORD (1) 6 (Phillips 3, Glover 2, McCulloch) 6,420
CHESTER (0) 0
 Brentford: Bond; Salmon, Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Graham (J), Glover, Shrubbs, Smith, McCulloch (Alder), Phillips.

Chester: Lloyd; Raynor, Walker, Storton, Jeffries, Oakes, Sutcliffe, Jones, Edwards, Phillips, Henderson.

CHESTERFIELD (3) 5 (Salmons 2, Moss, Walker, Fern pen.)
TRANMERE (0) 2 (Evans 2) 4,090
 Chesterfield: Letheran; Tart, Burton, Hunter, Cottam, Prophet, Heppolett (Kowalski), Moss, Fern, Salmons, Walker.
 Tranmere: Johnson; Palios, Mathias, Bramhall, Postlewhite, Parry, O'Neil, Evans, Kerr, Craven, McAuley.

EXETER 0
WATFORD 0 7,082
 Exeter: O'Keefe; Templeman, Hore, Randell, Giles, Roberts, Neville, Pearson, Sims, Delve, Hatch.
 Watford: Rankin; Stirk, Pritchett, Booth, Sims, Bolton, Pollard, Mercer, Jenkins, Joslyn, Downes.

GILLINGHAM (0) 2 (Overton, Weatherley)
OXFORD (1) 1 (McGrogan) 6,063
 Gillingham: Hillyard; Sharpe, Barker, Overton, Weatherley, Crabbe, Nicholl, Hughes, Price, Westwood, Jolley.
 Oxford: Burton; Taylor, Fogg, Briggs, Bodel, Duncan, McGrogan, Jeffrey, Berry, Seacole (Sweetzer), Hodgson.

HULL (2) 4 (Skipper, Farley, Bannister pen., Edwards)
BURY (1) 1 (Constantine) 3,940
 Hull: Blackburn; Nisbet, DeVries, Horswill, Skipper, Haigh, Warboys (Roberts), Hawker, Edwards, Bannister, Farley.
 Bury: Forrest; Constantine, Kennedy, Lugg, Tucker, Whitehead, Stanton, Wilson, Beamish, Madden, Taylor (Johnson).

LINCOLN (1) 1 (Fleming)
SOUTHEND (0) 1 (Morris pen.) 2,559
 Lincoln: Grotier; Guest, Leigh, Fleming, Cross, Hubbard, Hobson, Ward (Harford), Sunley, Cockerill, Watson.
 Southend: Cawston; Moody (Walker), Yates, Stead, Hadley, Cusack, Morris, Abbott, Parker, Dudley, Polycarpou.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

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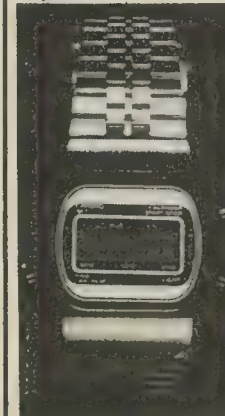
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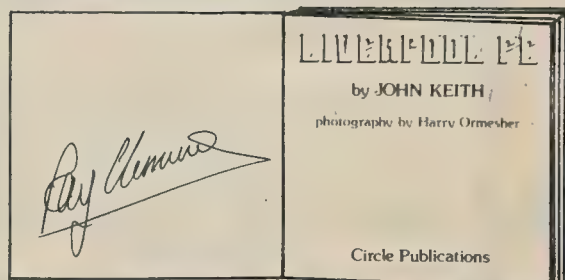
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SHOOT



LEFT ... The on-off transfer of Barry Silkman was ON again when he left Plymouth and signed for Manchester City. He's seen here sitting on the right of Malcolm Allison before the previous move fell through.

DEADLINE DEALS...

Their transfers just beat the clock



RIGHT ... Aberdeen snapped up Mark McGhee from Newcastle United.
BELOW ... A fortnight after playing for Southampton in the League Cup Final, Terry Curran joined Sheffield Wednesday.

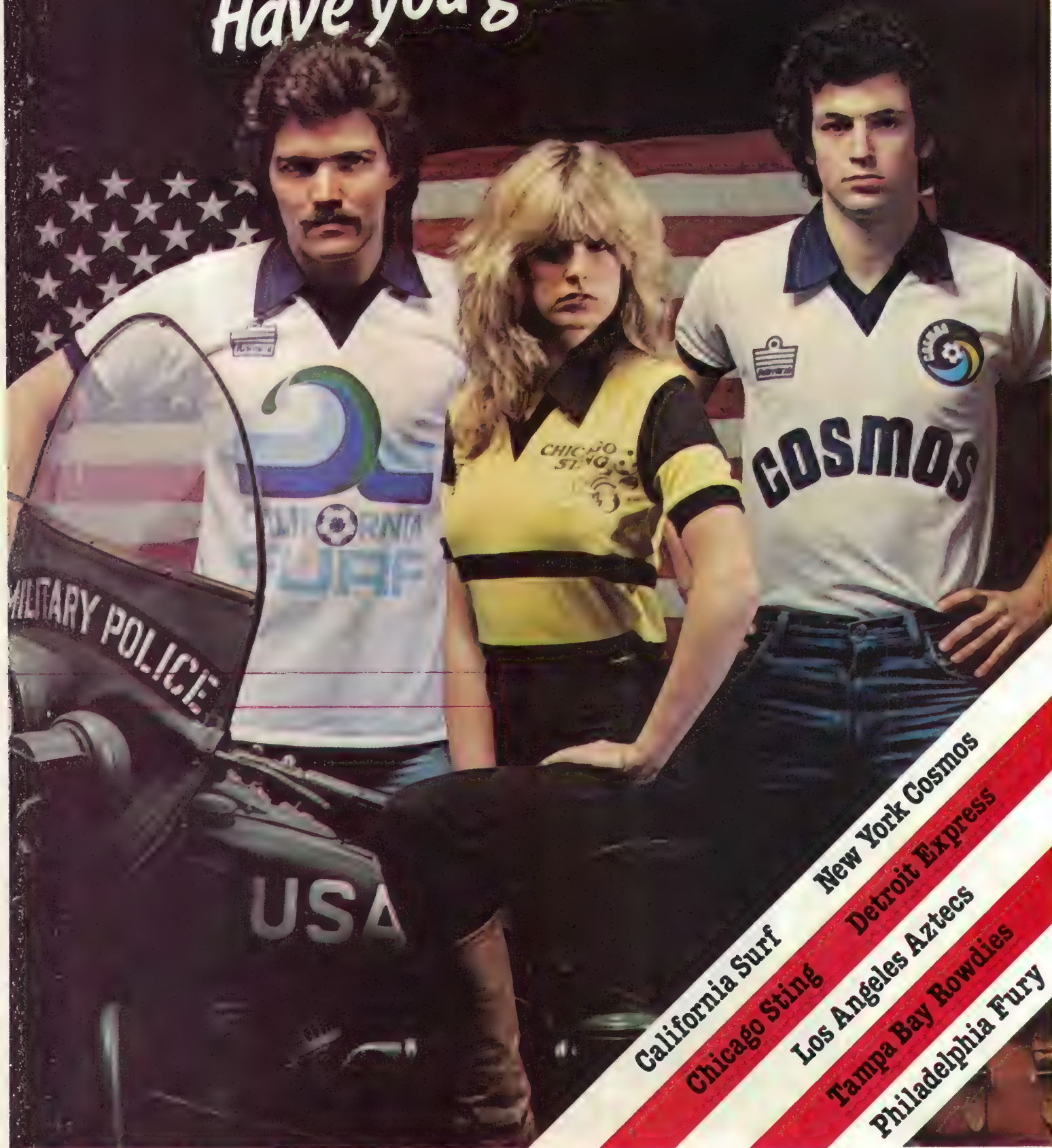


A straight swap Peter Eastoe (above) went to Everton in exchange for Mickey Walsh (above, left) who is seen here playing against Q.P.R. — Gerry Francis is on the ball.



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ON**

BOBBY RUSSELL

Rangers

FULL NAME: Robert Russell
BIRTHPLACE: Glasgow
BIRTHDATE: 11th February, 1957
HEIGHT: 5ft 8ins
WEIGHT: 10st
PREVIOUS CLUB: Sunderland
MARRIED: To Kathleen
CHILDREN: No
CAR: Fiat 127
FAVOURITE PLAYER:
Willie Johnston, ex-West Brom
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM:
Chelsea
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:
They're all hard
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:
Beating PSV Eindhoven 3-2 in this
season's European Cup
BIGGEST THRILL: Scoring the
winning goal in the above match
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:
Being knocked out of the
Semi-Final of the Scottish Junior
Cup
BEST COUNTRY VISITED:
Switzerland
FAVOURITE FOOD: Fillet steak
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Playing
snooker, pool and tennis and
relaxing at home with my wife
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES:
Losing, filthy ash trays and
arrogant people
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Fawley
Towers, documentaries and
sports programmes
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Barbra
Streisand and Wings
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS:
Paul Newman and again Barbra
Streisand
FRIEND: My dog, Rusty,
most ardent supporter apart from
my wife
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON
CAREER: My father
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER:
Having a bad game
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:
Scottish Under-21 cap
PERSONAL AMBITION: To have a
happy and healthy family
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To
play and score the winning goal
in a World Cup Final
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER,
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE?
A tradesman
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD
WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO
MEET? My wife's fancy man
(joking), Entertainer, Barbra
Streisand

Bobby Russell

SHOOT!

Important change in BRAZIL

AFTER the carnival, Brazilian football goes back to routine; the League Championships have already started in a number of states. But the big news is that Brazil are going to have a permanent national team. In other words, no more long periods of training before a World Cup, followed by years when no games were played or no games held.

From now on, Brazil are going to have a nucleus of about 17 to 20 players who will be reunited about once a month for an international game and then immediately disbanded to resume their normal duties with their clubs.

This is the norm in European football, but so far has never been done in Brazil, partly because of the immense distances, the fact that every state has its own Championship, and the non-existence of a coach, or manager, on permanent duty with the Brazilian F.A. (CBD).

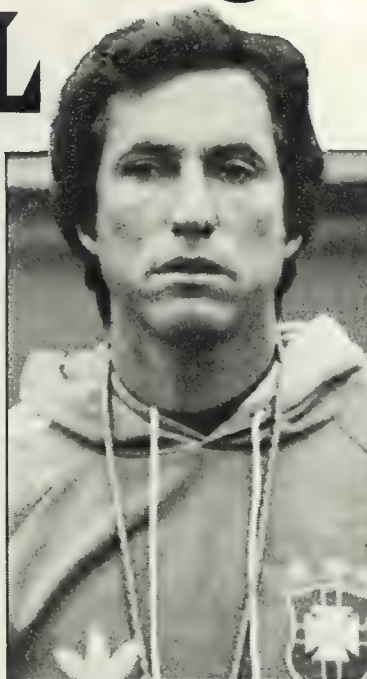
The last problem is going to be solved from next year on, when Claudio Coutinho (right) will be invited to discontinue his contract with Flamengo and take the post of Brazil manager with the CBD. Whenever Coutinho starts his job of permanent manager with the

CBD, he will have to consider the problem of recalling (or not) to the team some important players whom he decided to drop for the World Cup; namely Francisco Marinho, Paulo César Carpegiani (the white Paulo César), Paulo César Lima (the black Paulo César) and Falcão.

It is difficult to assess Marinho's current form, now that he plays for the Cosmos, but on any given day it is difficult *not* to admit that he is playing better than any other left full-back in the country. Paulo César Carpegiani was dropped because of knee problems, but is fully recovered and in fact was elected the best player in last year's Rio Championship.

With Paulo César Lima and Falcão, the problem is altogether different. It is a problem of the personal relationship between them and Coutinho. Paulo César Lima, who almost signed a contract with Fulham some months ago, is a problem player. Now he plays for Grêmio, in Rio Grando do Sul, and some critics consider that he has improved his ways. That is something to be seen.

Falcão is a tall, blond midfielder who played against England in Los Angeles three years ago. Only 25,



he is widely considered the best player in Brazil now, but Coutinho didn't call him to play in the World Cup following an argument they had the year before, when Falcão wouldn't accept being a mere reserve for Cerezo. If you analyse their current form, it is difficult not to agree with Falcão.

THERE was controversy during the Belgium Cup Quarter-Final tie between Beerschot and Lokeren. Rene Múcher scored the only goal of the game, but Lokeren protested that his shot had not crossed the goal-line.

The ref was adamant — a goal. The next day, there was photographic "evidence" that the ball HADN'T crossed the line, but the result stands.

In West Germany recently a game was ordered to be replayed when television proved that a goal was given when it shouldn't have been. Lokeren weren't that fortunate.

BECAUSE of legal action brought — and won — by the Associacao Santa Cruz club of Santa Cruz, Brazil, by a former trainer, the judge ordered that the club's only asset — star player Remi Scgmit — should be put up for auction, to pay the plaintiffs their £100,000 judgment.

However, the lawyers of the Players' Association say this is tantamount to slavery and have asked the Brazilian F.A. to intervene.

OFFICIALLY, there is no professional football in Eastern European countries such as Czechoslovakia, but the top stars there certainly don't have it bad. Dukla Prague striker Zdenek Nehoda, for example, apparently pays £25 a month rent for a four-room apartment, drives a Russian Lada, is a fifth year law student but officially a lieutenant in the Army.

WORLD WIDE COMPILED BY CHRIS DAVIES

MARIO Kempes has been chosen Footballer of the Year in South America. The top ten finished:

1. Mario Kempes (Argentina)
2. 'Pato' Fillof (Argentina)
3. Dirceu (Brazil)
4. Daniel Passarella (Argentina)
5. Teófilo Cubillas (Peru)
6. Elias Figueroa (Chile)
7. Bochini (Argentina)
8. César Cueto (Peru)
9. Rivelino (Brazil)
10. Osvaldo Ardiles (Argentina)

KILLER, Britez, Garcia and Araoz of Racing Club, Buenos Aires, broke the curfew on a night out and "drank considerable amounts of liquor".

The bad news for them was that manager Omar Sivori was waiting for them when they returned from the spree and immediately sent them home. Further disciplinary action was promised.

IT'S amazing how news can get 'twisted' when it's transmitted to other countries. The Spanish Press recently reported that W.B.A. manager Ron Atkinson was "willing to transfer Scottish World Cup winger Willie Johnston to any club offering 14 million dollars."

I doubt if even Brian Clough would rate 32-year-old Johnston — now with Vancouver Whitecaps — a snip at £7,000,000!

ARGENTINIAN superstar René Houseman is notorious in Buenos Aires for his repeated absences from training sessions, and he's even been known not to turn up on match-day either! His club, Huracán, have tried a million ways to reform the "lazy" World Cup winger, but recently he's been up to his old tricks again and has been skipping training to go and play in district kick-around matches with his friends.

The club have now insisted on writing a new clause into his contract whereby he'll be fined £100 for every training session he misses. At the current rate, Houseman will soon be owing the club money!

ANIMAL LOVER

BARCELONA'S Argentinian striker Juan Carlos Heredia is something of an animal-lover. He's got a squad of dogs and pheasants to keep him company at home, and he's also planning to start a duck farm. But his prize pet is a young lioness who's just been sent to him by a zoo-keeping friend in Ibiza. Although the lioness is only just over a year old, she already eats about 12 lbs of meat per day — which could be bad news for the dogs, the duck and the pheasants!

IN Chile, Colo Colo's 4-0 win over Santiago Morning seems a normal enough result, but poor old Morning ended the match with only six players after having four men sent-off and a fifth stretchered off injured after the maximum number of substitutions had already been made.

VACLAV JEZEK, who led Czechoslovakia to success in the 1976 European Championship, has had his contract with Feyenoord extended to June, 1981.

Another former manager of the Czech national team, Ladislav Novak with a record 76 Czech caps, is in Belgium with Royal Antwerp FC and they have extended his contract till June, 1980.

Novak's last club was Belgian First Division Team SC Lokeren, whom he led into the U.E.F.A. Cup, and wanting another Czech coach they took Novak's advice and signed former Dukla inside-right Josef Vacenovsky, who took over in January.



POLAND'S chances of qualifying for the European Championship Finals will be much clearer after their games away to East Germany (April 18th) and at home to Holland (May 2nd). The Poles have slipped a little in recent years and didn't show up well in the 1978 World Cup.

NEWS FLASHES

The French F.A. suspended Senegal-born centre-forward Laurent Pokou of Stade Rennais, for two years for kicking a referee. On appeal, the sentence was reduced to six months and the French refs are now threatening to strike unless Pokou gets the full two years.

Sepp Maier recently celebrated his 35th

RABID DOG MAKES PLAYERS MAD

A PICTURESQUE story from Spain, where the Mayor of Arenys de Munt found to his horror that his dog had contracted rabies. He was at a loss to know what to do with the dog until the vet could deal with it, but came up with a "brilliant" idea.

He took it to the local football stadium and locked it in the dressing-rooms! But it was the players who went mad with rage when they discovered the dog, and refused to use the dressing-rooms again until they'd been disinfected.

TOPS IN EUROPE

Here is a run-down on the various Footballers of the Year in Europe, with club positions, age and caps:

ENGLAND: Kenny Burns (Forest, defender, 25/13)
 SCOTLAND: Derek Johnstone (Rangers, striker, 25/13)
 BELGIUM: Jean-Marie Pfaff (SK Beveren, goalkeeper, 24/10)
 BULGARIA: Rumen Goranov (Loko Sofia, goalkeeper, 28/32)
 CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Zdenek Nehoda (Dukla Prague, striker, 26/54)
 DENMARK: Ole Kjaer (Esbjerg, goalkeeper, 24/6)
 EAST GERMANY: Jürgen Croy (Sach, Zwickau, goalkeeper, 32/91)
 WEST GERMANY: Sepp Maier (below, left, Bayern, goalkeeper, 34/92)
 FINLAND: Mikka Toivola (HJK, midfielder, 29/54)
 FRANCE: Jean Petit (AS Monaco, midfielder, 29/6)
 GREECE: Tomas Mavros (AEK, striker, 24/20)
 HOLLAND: Jan van Beveren (PSV, goalkeeper, 30/37)
 HUNGARY: Istvan Kocsis (Honved, defender, 29/11)
 ITALY: Paolo Rossi (Lanerossi, striker, 22/12)
 NORWAY: Einar Aas (Moss FK, defender, 26/3)
 POLAND: Zbigniew Boniek (Widzew, midfielder, 22/29)
 PORTUGAL: Humberto Coelho (Benfica, 28/43)
 RUMANIA: Narcis Coman (CS Tirgoviste, goalkeeper, 32/22)
 SWEDEN: Ronnie Hellström (below, right, 1.FC Kaiserslautern, goalkeeper, 29/72)
 SWITZERLAND: Erich Burgener (Lausanne Sports, goalkeeper, 27/33)
 USSR: Ramaz Szengelija (Dynamo Tblisi, striker, 22/0)



Testing time for POLAND

So far, the Poles have won both their matches in Group Four, away to Iceland (2-0) and at home to Switzerland (2-0).

Poland have been away in Tunisia training and won all three games in North Africa. The team is being rebuilt by Andrzej Kulesza, who succeeded the controversial, but still regarded in Poland as brilliant, Jacek Gmoch.

Goalkeeper Mlynarczyk has taken over from Tomaszewski, now in Belgium, and midfielder Faber has shown up well.

The better-known players Łato, Zmuda, Cmikiewicz and Szymanowski still form the backbone of the side, while Zbigniew Boniek (left) has succeeded Deyna as the play-maker in midfield. Boniek was voted Player of the Year in 1978.

The World Cup lessons have not been forgotten and Poland now plays much

less complicated football than they did in Argentina, where they were often bogged down by tactics. The sophisticated ideas and strategy of Gmoch have been abandoned by Kulesza, who maintains the beauty of soccer is in its simplicity.

The Poles are more confident of winning in East Germany than they are of beating Holland at home. Anything less than three points out of four in this very competitive group will make Poland's task of qualifying for the Finals in Italy next year very hard indeed.

TABLE:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pt
Holland.....	4	4	0	0	12	1	11	8	
Poland.....	2	2	0	0	4	0	4	4	
E. Germany.....	2	1	0	1	3	4	1	2	
Switzerland.....	2	0	0	2	0	5	5	0	
Iceland.....	3	0	0	3	1	8	2	0	

birthday and asked the secret of his youth replied: "I drink plenty of mineral water."

FC Bienne, the Swiss club, are in financial difficulties and to help out a department store in the town has offered to donate five per cent of the club's gate receipts for the rest of the season as a gesture.

Klaus Toppmöller, currently the top scorer in the Bundesliga was all set to earn a reported £125,000 playing in the USA this summer but now the DFB has banned all temporary transfers to the States.

Helmut Haller who played in the 1966 World Cup Final v. England, scoring the first goal, is still active with Bundesliga Div II club Augsburg. His 17-year-old son,

Jürgen, has signed for the club and expects to play alongside his father next season.

Apparently Polish goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski is having a brilliant season for Beerschot in the Belgian League.

Turkey beat Malta 2-1 in front of 50,000 fans in Izmir in a European Championship Group 7 game.

Apparently Italy midfielder Giancarlo Antognoni is joining Juventus from Fiorentina this summer for £1.2 million plus two players. Incidentally, the 25-year-old schemer hasn't scored a League goal for a year!

Perugia have beaten AC Milan's record of 20 games unbeaten in the Italian League.

'I'D LIKE 24 WORLD CUP FINALISTS IN 1982'



Interview with Joao Havelange, President of F.I.F.A.

SHOOT: F.I.F.A. met the Organising Committees of both the '78 and '82 World Cups in Madrid. What were the main topics under discussion at the meetings?

HAVELANGE: Their main purpose was to analyse the final financial report which was presented to us by the '78 World Cup Organising Committee during a recent visit to Buenos Aires. We were pleased, not only with the profit, but also because of its careful preparation. Then the '78 Organising Committee met the '82 Committee to discuss all the positive and negative aspects of the last World Cup which, we unanimously agreed, was one of the best organised ever. A few changes may occur for the next World Cup but nothing has been decided yet.

SHOOT: Was the number of participants in the '82 tournament discussed?

HAVELANGE: No. The decision will only be made during the first official meeting of the 1982 Organising Committee and F.I.F.A., which is to take place between 17-19th May, '79, in Zurich, when the new F.I.F.A. Headquarters will be inaugurated.

At any rate, the country which is to host the competition, Spain, have the first word on the issue. They have to say whether they can handle 16, 20 or 24 teams.

SHOOT: In your opinion, what will Spain's decision be?

HAVELANGE: It is rather difficult to say, because there are technical, financial and economical problems involved, all of which are extremely important in the organisation of such a competition. I, myself, as an enthusiast of the 24-participant formula, would be very glad if it was proposed by Spain and accepted by the Organising Committee. However, whatever both decide, F.I.F.A. is to have the final word through its Executive Committee, which is presided over by myself.

SHOOT: With 16 participants, the duration of the World Cup Finals has never exceeded four weeks. How long would it take if 24 countries took part?

HAVELANGE: The first World Cup took place almost 50 years ago in Uruguay, when F.I.F.A. had only around 65 affiliated members and on that occasion the number of participants was agreed at 16. This has been kept unchanged until Argentina, which corresponds to 48 years. The World Cup in Spain will take place after the competition's Golden Jubilee and F.I.F.A. has grown a lot since 1930. We now have 146 full members plus five provisional ones, a total of 151 countries.

A World Cup with 24 participants would come as a natural consequence of such an expansion but this number would never possibly be increased. With regards to the duration of the competition, until now with 16 participants it has never exceeded 25 days, whatever formula was used. With 24 it would never exceed 28 days, that is an increase of just 72 hours.

SHOOT: Going still further in time, to the '86 World Cup, wouldn't an increase in the number of participants pose a problem to future organisers? Would Colombia, for example, as probable organisers of the '86 tournament be able to handle 24 teams?

HAVELANGE: First of all, I must stress that, although much has been said lately about Colombia being just probable organisers of the '86 World Cup, they are not probable. They acquired the rights to organise the World Cup in Mexico, 16 years before the event. No one can take such rights from any country. Unless something disastrous happens, the '86 World Cup will be held in Colombia. The 24-participant formula did not remove the possibility of just 16 or 20 countries participating in the Cup. It simply added another choice. So, the organisers can opt for any of the three possibilities, according to their own capabilities. They must inform F.I.F.A. about their plans and a team of our representatives is sent to the country, in order to check the facilities offered. Argentina had this problem. They proposed 20 participants but due to the fact that there were only five venues, F.I.F.A. could not accept their proposal, reducing it to 16.

SHOOT: What would be the qualifying method for the 20 or 24 Finalists? Would we have some "fixed" teams, invited by F.I.F.A.?

HAVELANGE: The rules give no powers whatsoever for any country to be invited. It states that apart from the hosts and the last Champions, all other teams must go through the qualifying tournaments. Spain have to study the best formula, vote on it and, if approved, submit it to F.I.F.A.'s Executive Committee. They could propose that some countries be invited. The possibility exists, but I wouldn't like to say if the Executive Committee would approve it. We have suggested that the qualification tournaments should carry on as normal, with all countries being involved but only 18 would qualify from them, in the event of 24 participants. The remaining six places would be filled by the runners-up of each qualifying group (Africa, Europe, Concacaf, Conmebol, Oceania and Asia). This is just a suggestion, not a decision. We will have to wait for Spain's pronouncement regarding the number of participants and, then, the Organising Committee will begin their studies to find what the best formula will be.

● Interview by Roberto Levinstein

MOTHERWELL IN A MESS

THE smile has gone, buried deep in the rubble of worry. The bounce has gone out of the once jaunty step. The man who might have been King of Scotland and flirted with World Cup glory is a changed person.

Ally MacLeod (right), who could hardly move for supporters swearing their undying devotion just a year ago, is now a man alone.

Motherwell are in turmoil. St Mirren attacker Frank McGarvey hammered in a hat-trick against them at Fir Park and afterwards was asked what he thought of Ally MacLeod's side.

McGarvey didn't hesitate. "They were terrible, weren't they?" he said, defying argument.

Even Motherwell players are a bit bemused by the whirlwind start to his Fir Park career by MacLeod, who states ambitiously that his main aim in life at the moment is to win the Premier Division.

"It's a madhouse at the moment," says one player, who obviously wishes to remain anonymous. Another has said it is like something out of the film "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest".

MacLeod freed Peter Millar and Willie McVie when a lot of people thought he would have picked up transfer fees for the two experienced defenders. Millar will now join Dundee and McVie is on



his way to Canada with Toronto Blizzard, formerly known as Metros.

Twelve other players have been put on the transfer list and MacLeod, on a £20,000 a year contract, is starting again.

"He must have accepted that we are going to be relegated," says one Motherwell player. "We were ready to fight, but it looks too late now."

A few days later Aberdeen hammered Motherwell 8-0 in a Premier Division match.

Motherwell have been called, with a certain amount of justification, the worst team ever to play in the Premier Division. MacLeod argues against that, but his young side were demoralised in matches against Dundee United, St Mirren and Morton, before the Aberdeen game, when 13 goals whizzed past goalkeeper Stewart Rennie.

Young centre back Jim Dempsey must have created some sort of record when he was booked three times in his first three top team games!

The club has taken several hammerings on and off the pitch, but MacLeod is determined to stick with his youth policy. He feels he has young players who can emerge into fine team men and earn a new reputation for the side. But they may have to do that from the First Division which, as Dundee boss Tommy Gemmell is quick to point out, is an extremely difficult Division to climb up from.

Motherwell's board are known as one of the most ambitious in the game. They have been quick to make money available and former boss Roger Hynd, who left after just a year in charge, bought players such as Mike Larnach (£65,000), Paul Wilson (£60,000), Jim Boyd (£30,000) and Dave Latchford (£20,000) among several others.

These players are among the 12 put on the transfer list by

MacLeod, who obviously has his own ideas about how the team should be formed.

It would need an unexpected miracle to keep Motherwell in the Top Ten. They really don't seem to have the players or the team spirit needed to lift them to safety.

MacLeod will keep hoping for that miracle and will concede nothing until it is mathematically impossible to keep the club in the Premier Division, but it looks as though the Fir Park support will have to be patient in the coming years.

Two seasons ago they were talking about building a Premier Championship winning team. Football being a cruel game has now given them a side that has hit a slide with dramatic results.

To be fair it must be pointed out that the rot had set in before MacLeod arrived to take over the running of the side. There were so many comings and goings at Fir Park that Motherwell fans had difficulty in identifying some of their own players!

There will be a lot more happenings before MacLeod, now with all thoughts of the Scottish international job and Argentina well behind him, is satisfied.

It could be a long time before that famous face splits in half again with laughter. The bounce in the step may not be seen for at least a year or two, yet football has a habit of defying the critics.

HAPPY RETURNS TO MORTON for Roy Baines

SEVERAL eyebrows were raised in astonishment when Celtic manager Billy McNeill decided to sell goalkeeper Roy Baines back to Morton this season for a modest £15,000.

The Parkhead side had their own goalkeeper problems to solve and many Celtic fans thought Baines deserved an extended run. The 'keeper also had strong Celtic connections and had never hidden his ambitions.

"Going back to Morton should not be seen as a step backwards," says blond-haired, well-built Baines. "I've been impressed by their progressive attitude."

"I talked things over with manager Benny Rooney and his ambitious nature got through to me. It also gives me the opportunity to show what I can do with a steady run in the first team."

There is no doubt that the purchase of Baines is a marvellous bit of business by the Cappielow club. When they sold Baines to Celtic four years ago they received a fee of £10,000 and also a young Andy Ritchie.

Ritchie has now matured into a class player and would cost well over £100,000 in today's transfer market. Now Baines has returned and Morton must be happy about their dealings with Celtic.

Baines played with consistency for the Celtic first team this season when he took over from fellow-Englishman Peter Latchford, whose form has been incredibly erratic recently.

"I was happy with the form of young Paddy Bonnar in the reserves," says Billy McNeill. "That's why I allowed Roy Baines to leave."

Shortly after Baines' transfer, Bonnar made his first team debut for the Parkhead side in a 2-1 Premier Division victory over Motherwell at Parkhead.

Morton, though, might feel that in Baines they have a goalkeeper who is better than both Latchford and Bonnar. Unfortunately for Baines his second debut for the Cappielow club was hardly memorable.

He lost four goals to a revitalised Dundee United side and, ironically, the Tannadice men were the last opponents he faced while in the Celtic top team. That day they drew 1-1 at Parkhead with Baines making several good saves.

Morton have a history for buying

ex-Old Firm goalkeepers. They sold Danish international Erik Sorensen to Rangers for £40,000 and got him back again four years later on a free transfer. Another nice piece of bargaining!

And four years ago, after selling Baines to Celtic, they picked up former Parkhead goalkeeper Denis Connaghan on another free transfer. Connaghan's experience was invaluable as Morton won the First Division title last season.

Morton can certainly hand out several lessons to some of the big-time clubs when it comes to getting the best out of the transfer market. This season they parted with £10,000 plus utility player Tom McNeill for St. Johnstone attacker Bobby Thompson and shortly after this they turned down a £70,000 bid by an English club.

Andy Ritchie, prince of the precision pass, could be on his way to the Cosmos in another lucrative deal. He could parade his undoubted skills in the North American League on a temporary transfer and return to Cappielow when the American season ends.



The player has already gone on record as saying he would like to sample American soccer and looks as though Morton, whose supremo Hal Stewart is a close friend of Cosmos manager Eddie Firmani, will be able to give him his wish without losing his services. Nice one, Morton.

Benny Rooney is forming a good, talented unit at Greenock and next season we will probably see them at their best. They have looked for consolidation this term and no doubt Rooney will have some other ideas in the transfer market to strengthen his side.

Roy Baines has already shown that a return to Cappielow is hardly a wrong move. Others could follow his lead.



Davie Cooper (right) scores for Rangers against Celtic at Hampden Park. Johnstone also (jumping) enjoys playing their rivals at Parkhead.

Tartan Talk DEREK JOHNSTONE



The noise can be deafening at times and all you can do is to shut your ears and get on with the game. It's really amazing, though, when one half of the ground is celebrating and the other half is silent.

Last year there was a good example of this when Derek Parlane scored to put us 2-1 ahead. The Rangers end was a sea of blue, red and white, but a minute later Roy Aitken equalised and the other end erupted into green and white. Astonishing!

Parkhead is a big pitch, too, and was widened not long ago. Other grounds in Scotland aren't quite so vast. Firhill, home of Partick Thistle, gives you the impression of being cramped because the fans are almost on top of you.

Arbroath's Gayfield is a tight, small pitch and there is very little room in which to play. When Rangers meet Arbroath our rivals always seem to have about 20 players on the pitch!

Clyde's Shawfield is a strange ground because there are no fans behind one of the goals. Shawfield is, of course, a dog track and that space is taken up by a huge Tote Board.

'I LIKE PLAYING AT CELTIC'

THERE are some grounds dotted around Scotland that I just can't wait to play on. Unfortunately, at the other end of the scale, there are some where you know things are going to be difficult, the conditions will make for heavy going.

Soccer players have got to perform on all sorts of surfaces and in Scotland we have a variety of grounds. Let's talk about some of my favourites, for a start.

I must begin with Ibrox and I'm not just saying that because I am a Rangers player. Everything about Ibrox is big-time.

It's a good stadium and a lot of money is being spent on making it into one of the most modern sports arenas in Europe. I liked it the way it was, but Rangers are always looking to the future.

The pitch is in good condition, too, and a lot of praise must go to our former player Jock Shaw who is an excellent groundsman. Ibrox, in fact, reminds me of Hampden Park, the ground that has been called Rangers' second home and

when you consider the amount of games we play there in a season it is easy to see why people say this.

Hampden is a big, wide ground. It can be a tiring, exhausting pitch because of its vastness, but I'm certainly not complaining as I have had my fair share of success and goals there in the past.

The latest one was, of course, our League Cup Final success against Aberdeen on March 31st.

In a rather scrappy game, we beat The Dons 2-1 with the winner from Colin Jackson coming well into injury time. Still, that's the first step in our attempt to retain all our domestic trophies.

I also enjoy playing at Parkhead, home of rivals Celtic. The atmosphere in Old Firm games is incredible. I don't think there is a derby game anywhere in the world like this one.

I've often heard goalkeepers say they don't like playing there because of the lack of atmosphere and I can believe them.

Some pitches on the Continent have got to be seen to be believed. We played a European tie in Turkey four or five years ago and, honestly, the ground looked like a beach. There was hardly a blade of grass and we were told it was a GOOD pitch! We just couldn't believe it.

We had been doing a lot of training on the sands of Gullane around that time and some of the lads joked we should feel quite at home. I don't know about that, but we did manage to get through.

On Saturday (April 14th) we travel to Fir Park to take on Motherwell in a Premier Division game. We'll have struggled this season and are at present bottom

of the table but that won't stop them fighting to beat us.

But two points there will help to push Rangers towards another Premier Division Championship.

Anyway, I'll sign off now by saying one of the most important things in any football ground is YOU, a fan. The game needs supporters, don't forget that.

Cheers and I'll see you all in a fortnight.

Derek Johnstone

TARTAN TALK FROM CELTIC'S DANNY McGRAIN NEXT WEEK

NOBBY



CALL YOURSELF A FRONT-RUNNER? YOU COULDN'T RUN PAST MY GRANNY!

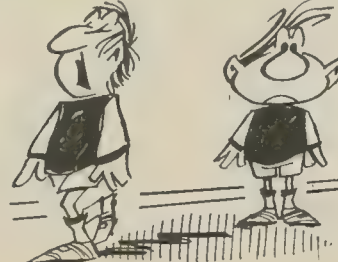
AND I'VE SEEN BETTER STRIKERS IN A DAMP BOX OF MATCHES



IGNORE HIM - HE DOESN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT FOOTBALL



HE ONLY REPEATS WHAT EVERYBODY ELSE IS SAYING!





'Five caps — a bonus for me'

DAVE CLEMENT

THE Q.P.R. defender has no regrets about making only five England appearances after winning international recognition at the age of 28.

"It was a bonus for me," admits Clement. "I reckon I was playing well enough for Rangers to have won a cap two years earlier, but better late than never.

"I would never make the mistake of believing I am blessed with the same super skills as players like Tony Currie and Stan Bowles, but my selection shows that it takes more than just ball artistry to win an England cap.

"It surprises me that players of that calibre are sometimes their own worst enemies and damage their chances of making more England appearances. Currie, for instance, was reputed to be a poor trainer before he joined Leeds.

"Now, he has seen the light and is playing to the peak of his capabilities. Sadly, he could have had 50 caps by now, instead of fewer than 20."

Injury cost Clement his right-back berth after winning caps against Wales twice, Italy twice, and Holland in two years from 1976.

"It wasn't so much loss of form as injury. John Gidman, Colin Todd, and Phil Neal came into the reckoning, with Neal given an extended run.

"But I haven't given up hope of playing again, although, at 31, my chances must be limited. But I look back with pride at wearing an England shirt.

"I kept my first shirt, but also treasure ones I swapped with opponents. Causio gave me his after the Italy game, and imagine the thrill when Cruyff swapped his with me after playing against Holland."

Clement was non-playing sub for England against Team America in the Bi-Centennial Cup in 1976 and boldly confronted an opponent wearing the number ten shirt when he sprinted from the pitch past the sub's bench.

"Swap shirts?" I inquired. The player flashed a toothy smile and handed me the prize.

"Now, Pele's shirt is neatly pressed and locked away in my trophy cabinet at home.

"Yes, I won only five caps, but five is better than none. Just imagine how Manchester United's striker Jimmy Greenhoff feels having received no recognition after a distinguished career at League level.

"It must be terrible to finish your career knowing you were one of the best players in the country without winning a cap."

'I could have kissed Ron Greenwood'

TERRY McDERMOTT

LIVERPOOL'S skilful midfield player has learned that patience is a virtue under the shrewd management of Bob Paisley at Anfield — and is currently applying the principle in his campaign to win back his England place.

Injury cost him international appearances after winning two caps against Switzerland and Luxembourg in 1978, and since then he has even lost his place in Liverpool's side.

"There are so many good players around at my club and in the England squad that it's frightening to get injured," says the former Newcastle player.

"But it doesn't pay to get too disheartened. Emlyn Hughes proved the importance of not becoming disheartened when he was picked to captain England against Northern Ireland at Wembley this season when he couldn't get in the Liverpool team.

"My England debut against Switzerland was the highlight of my career. I was told I was in the team on a Monday. Ron Greenwood broke the news and I could have kissed him.

"First thing I did was to phone my girl friend, then my dad, then most of my friends. I reckon I spent £30 in telephone calls.

"Most of my family were at Wembley for the game. The match was made easier for me because the nucleus of the side comprised Liverpool players.

"One of the Swiss players wanted my England jersey after the game, but it would have taken the 'Incredible Hulk' to prise it from my back.

"I'm back to my best form after injury, but Kevin Keegan taught me a lesson when he said that there is always room for improvement. The fact that you're an England player doesn't mean you've reached your peak.

"There are several departments of my game to improve upon. I want to improve my heading. My concentration could be better. Relax for a moment and you can make a mistake. And I want to sharpen my shooting, especially from outside the box.

"It doesn't pay to get disheartened. I watch Ray Kennedy, the best left sided midfielder in the country and wonder why he isn't in the England team.

"Bob Paisley likes his players to be in the international squads. The chairman of Liverpool does too, that's why I'm rarin' to get back. But prepared to play a waiting game."



ENGLAND REJECTS... or are they?

GOOD enough to play for England but not to retain their international status over a long period.

That has been the fate of these First Division stars, who have brushed briefly with the glory of playing for their country without ever winning the long-term approval of England managers.

They could be described as international rejects. They prefer to believe that circumstances beyond their control were responsible for limiting their England appearances, a view that would gain the sympathy of most football fans.

They appear to have been thrust firmly out of the international limelight, yet remain adamant that they are still good enough to pull on an England shirt under Ron Greenwood...



'Still hoping for a recall'

JOHN RICHARDS

NOTHING will convince Wolves striker John Richards that he will not add another England cap to the one he possesses for an appearance he made in May, 1973 against Northern Ireland.

He has recovered from three operations on his right knee in the past three years, the last back in November, and reckons that even at 28 he will be worthy of consideration by Ron Greenwood.

"It is very easy for people to write you out of the reckoning after injury, especially when they have been as bad as the ones I've suffered. But I'm fast returning to full fitness.

"I weigh 11 stone nine pounds, just five pounds more than I did when I made my only England appearance.

"My sharpness has returned. I'm not quite as quick off the mark as Peter Daniel and Geoff Palmer at Wolves, but I'm not far short of their pace.

"I look back on my one cap with pride. Obviously I would have preferred to have won more.

"If Derek Dougan had been English instead of Irish, I believe that our striking partnership at Wolves a few seasons ago would have carried us both into the England team. We had a marvellous understanding.

"As it was, I had to compete with Malcolm Macdonald, Mike Channon, Martin Chivers and Allan Clarke for an England place. The position remained unsettled for a long time.

"I never managed an extended run under Sir Alf Ramsey, but memories of that solitary game will remain with me forever.

"The game against Northern Ireland was played at Goodison Park because of the Ulster crisis. Imagine my surprise when Ramsey told me I was playing during a training session at Warrington. It was a significant moment, for I was born within five miles of that training ground.

"I got my chance when Clarke was taken ill and withdrew at the last minute. What a treat to sit in that dressing room before the game. The number ten shirt on the coat hanger, all white and gleaming, and a neat pile of 20 telegrams.

"We got to the ground at 1.30, so I had time to read them. One baffled me completely for a time. It said: 'Good luck and best wishes from St. Margarets — Mr Marsh.' Then I twigged, it was from my old junior school in Warrington, dispatched by the sports master."

'The luck of the draw'

DAVE THOMAS

EVERTON'S flying winger, has not been chosen for any of Ron Greenwood's England teams since the former West Ham manager succeeded Don Revie.

Thomas won eight caps in three years under Revie when he was playing for Queens Park Rangers. Yet, since moving to the more fashionable title-challenging Everton he has produced the best football of his career without receiving another call-up.

Observers might expect to find Thomas somewhat disgruntled at Goodison Park. They would be wildly mistaken to make that assumption.

"It's just the luck of the draw," says Thomas philosophically. "Ron Greenwood has done a good job since taking over from Revie. He has the respect of the professionals in this country. You can't blame him for selecting Steve Coppell and Peter Barnes in preference to me.

"I could argue with some conviction that I've been more consistent than Barnes, who has struggled at League level with Manchester City this season.

"But Greenwood's strength is that he keeps faith with his men. Revie was always good to me, but he chopped and changed so much during his reign."

Thomas, who has lost none of his zest for the game or his wing skills at 28, believes that he can still offer a major contribution to England.

"I'd love to play for England with my club-mate Bob Latchford, the current England striker. I know just how he wants the ball and some of Everton's success this season has come from our understanding. I give him the service, and he pops in the goals.

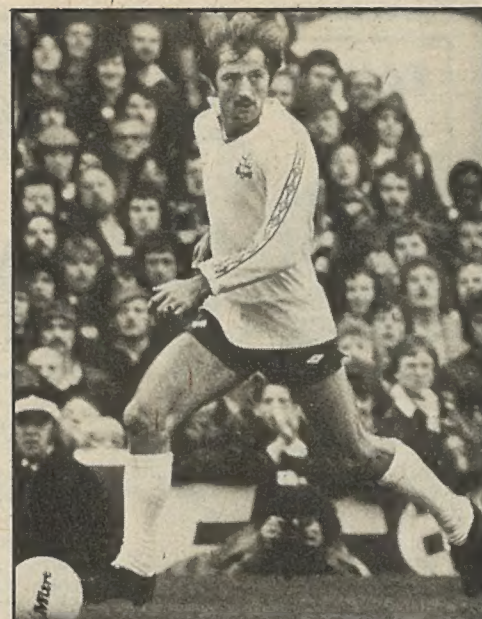
"Playing for England is the ultimate in every footballer's career. If playing for Everton is the bread and butter, getting an England call-up would put the icing on the cake.

"It was a great disappointment to me when Don Revie sent me a letter saying he wasn't taking me on a summer tour two years ago. But he told me not to be too despondent."

Sadly, Dave Thomas was never called on again. Revie resigned, Greenwood took over, and what seemed a temporary withdrawal for him for the international limelight has become more permanent.

But Thomas refuses to believe he will never play for England again.

"If I can maintain consistency, I could easily get back," he explains. "Don't write me off."



'I should be in the squad'

FRANK WORTHINGTON

TOP First Division goalscorer Frank Worthington wants the England striker's job he vacated after winning eight caps, two as a sub in three years from 1974.

"I'm good enough and scoring goals regularly enough to win further honours," insists the 30-year-old Bolton striker, who has headed the Division's goal charts for most of this season.

"At least I should be in the squad. Unfortunately, a lot of it has to do with whether you are playing for a successful club. Bolton have been struggling a bit this season. Our chances of getting television coverage and a visit from Mr Greenwood are not as great as they are at the Liverpools, Manchester Uniteds and Arsenals.

"I am enjoying my football more this season than ever before, although I remember scoring more than 20 goals for Leicester in the early 70's. I just love playing football, and training is a pleasure.

"I felt I was never given a proper crack under Don Revie. He had a doubt about me, Tony Currie and Alan Hudson. I always felt that Revie was out of his depth at international level. He was a good club manager full stop."

Worthington has been a striker with Huddersfield, Leicester and Bolton. He spearheaded their League attacks after playing at inside-forward at schoolboy level and believes he might revert to a more withdrawn midfield role when his striking days are numbered.

Worthington takes no credit from Bob Latchford's proven goalscoring for England, but believes that his more mobile game would be better suited to foiling the European sides man to man marking system.

"An old-fashioned type striker like Bob will find it harder to shrug off close markers than a more elusive player, such as Kevin Keegan.

"So I haven't given up hope of turning out for the old country again.

"It's the greatest thing that can happen to a player. The thrill of providing Keith Weller with the pass for his winning goal against Northern Ireland in May, 1974, when I came on as sub in my debut international at Wembley is a memory I shall have for ever."

The Burnden Park, Bolton fans will take a lot of convincing that Worthington will not fulfil his dream of making a dramatic comeback under Ron Greenwood.

Stranger things have happened in football...

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S Quiz Time

1. Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough was linked recently with two foreign players Claudio Sulser and Raimondo Ponte. For which club do they play?
2. Which Spanish club was reported to be interested in Ipswich Town's boss Bobby Robson?
3. Q.P.R. defender Tommy Cunningham moved to which Fourth Division club for around £50,000?
4. Yugoslav international Bosco Jankovic made his First Division debut for which club in March?
5. On March 26th, Aberdeen entertained Motherwell and hammered them 6-0, 7-0 or 8-0?
6. England schoolboys drew 1-1 with Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland at Wembley recently?
7. Alan Birchenall was given a free transfer by Burnley, Blackburn Rovers or Bolton Wanderers and joined Luton, Lincoln or Leicester?
8. Liverpool's Emlyn Hughes had a testimonial at Anfield recently when the European Champions entertained which West German club?
9. Manchester United striker Andy Ritchie (right) scored his first League hat-trick when he helped his club to a 4-1 win against which side at Old Trafford?
10. Crystal Palace's Jim Cannon predicted three clubs would be promoted this season from the Second Division. Palace was one ... can you name the others?
11. Doug Evans was sent-off in a First Division game at Birmingham City. Which club does he play for?



12. Name the two Brighton players, one a striker, the other a mid-fielder, who were suspended for two games for reaching 20 points.
13. Which West Ham United player has the same surname as an English County?
14. Did the High Court, F.A. or F.I.F.A., judge George Best's contract dispute with Fulham?
15. Which three Arsenal players were under intensive treatment in the week prior to the Semi-Final clash with Wolves?

ANSWERS

1. Grasshoppers of Zurich. 2. Barcelona. 3. Wimbledon. 4. Middlesbrough. 5. 8-0. 6. Wales. 7. Blackburn and Luton. 8. Borussia Monchengladbach. 9. Leeds United. 10. Brighton and Stoke City. 11. Norwich City. 12. Teddy Maybank and Brian Horton. 13. Alan Devonshire. 14. F.I.F.A. 15. Liam Brady, Wilie Young and Brian Talbot.

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (2) Jut. (5) Alan. (8) Oak. (11) Pompey. (12) Use. (13) Park. (15) Sheffield. (17) Cry. (18) On. (19) Spade. (23) Ail. (24) Inert. (26) Me. (27) Bridge. (30) He. (31) Tony. (32) Coy. (35). Earl. (37) Posts. (38) Studs. DOWN:— (1) Rouses. (3) Up. (4) Tonic. (5) Applying. (6) Lead. (7) Ayr. (9) Ash. (10) Keelan. (14) Kennedy. (16) Era. (20) Pike. (21) Debt. (22) Errors. (25) Tin. (28) Dyes. (29) Ecu. (30) Hip. (33) Old. (34) Is. (36) At.

Jumbled Name: GARY PENDREY.

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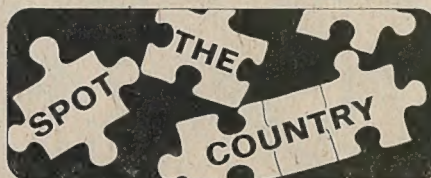
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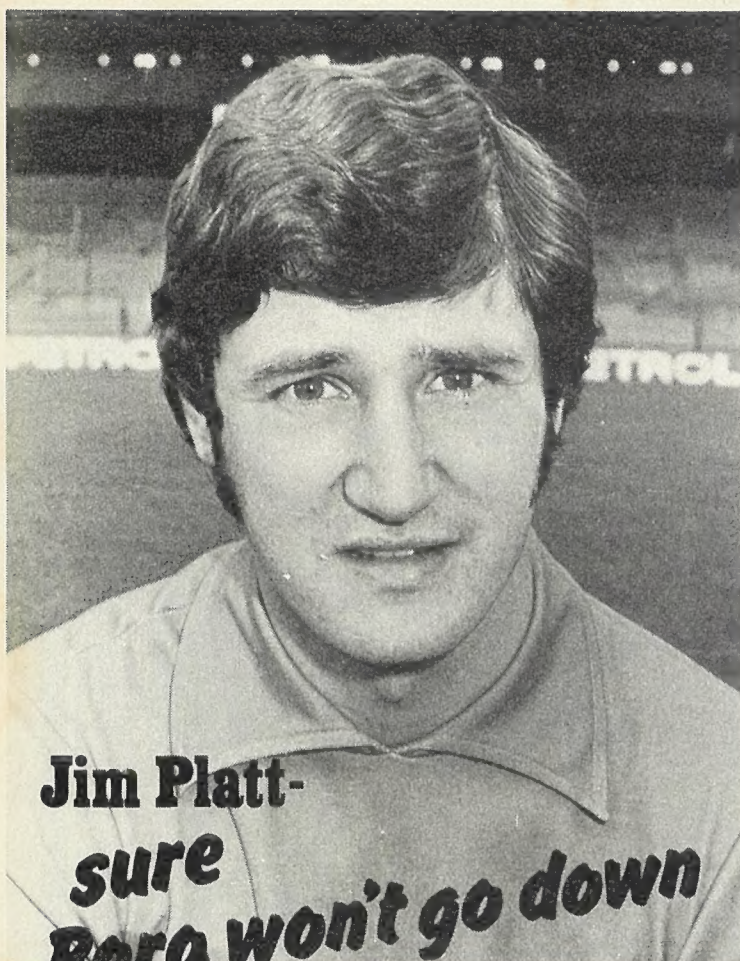
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in SHOOT next week...

Colour: Arsenal v. Bolton match
action; Phil Parkes (West Ham's
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Q.P.R.); Paul Power (Man. City)
v. Kevin Keelan (Norwich); Focus
on Gary Collier (Bristol City) and
West Germany's Gerd Muller with
his new club in America; Alistair
Robertson (West Brom).

Features: SHOOT selects the Best
Buys of the Season + Exclusive
interview with Argentina's World
Cup winning manager Cesar Luis
Menotti + Jim Smith (Birmingham
manager) comments on the present
state of the club + Dave Thomas
(Everton) + John Lacy (Spurs) +
Doug Collins (Rochdale manager)
+ Ged Keegan (Oldham) + Davie
Fairclough (Liverpool) +
Comments from players Out of
Europe and losing F.A. Cup
Semi-Finalists + All your usual
favourites in SHOOT next week!



Jim Platt- sure Bora won't go down

WHEN Middlesbrough's Jim Platt was chosen for first team duty in March, his selection followed ten months of frustration and disappointment which made this period the worst in his soccer career.

"Towards the end of last season I was dropped by Middlesbrough," recalls Jim. "And I was criticised so much I almost lost faith in myself. Then I got my chance to play in the British Championship, due to injury to Pat Jennings, and I approached the three matches with the view I had something to prove, not only to other people but also to myself."

Platt's display for Northern Ireland against England at Wembley was brilliant, making him the star in a fine display by the Irish team.

Says Jim: "I was happy with my game against England, and my form in the other games made me feel I was capable of playing in the top-flight."

Later, after his Wembley success, the Northern Ireland 'keeper was shelved by Middlesbrough, finding himself left out of the first eleven and not even sure of a regular place in the reserves.

"With Jim Stewart being signed in the close season and gaining a League place, I was in the position where I was sharing reserve team outings with young David Brown."

For Platt, his opportunity came when Middlesbrough dropped Stewart in March, and the Northern Ireland international made his comeback. Two points were gained at Ayresome against Aston Villa, and a draw away to Bristol City, yet Jim has kept his feet on the ground after his recall.

"I'm not carried away by being back in the side. There is a long

way to go, and it is up to me to do the best I can. The past few months were heart-breaking enough to make me want to prove I've the determination and talent to play at the highest level."

It was during Platt's spell in the soccer wilderness that he was loaned out to Hartlepool and Cardiff, and just before his return to Middlesbrough's League side he was set to be transferred to Blackburn.

"In the past, the situation I've experienced would have made me think seriously about packing up the game altogether — I've a couple of shops back home as a safeguard for the future."

'Top-flight'

"There is nothing more soul-destroying than getting a reserve game every two weeks or so, especially after being used to regular football in the top-flight. But the days when I had doubts about my ability are gone, and at the age of 27, I think that I'm just approaching my best as a goalkeeper."

Platt, who was born in Ballymoney, Northern Ireland, is a six-footer who started his career with Ballymena United. In May, 1970, he was transferred to Middlesbrough for £7,000 and made his debut for the Ayresome club against Blackpool in October, 1971. He has made over 300 appearances for the Teessiders, and was brought back to League duty to a Middlesbrough side struggling to climb away from the relegation zone.

And summing up his club's chances of maintaining a First Division place, Jim says: "I don't believe there is any danger of Middlesbrough being relegated — there are teams below us in a much worse state."

THE remarkable displays of Barry Siddall, Sunderland's giant goalkeeper, have been an important factor in keeping the Roker club in contention for a Second Division promotion place. But he believes the efforts the Wear-siders are making at home could receive more encouragement from their fans — even if they are already recognised as being among the most loyal and fervent in the game.

Says Barry: "I'm very happy with our away form, and we receive tremendous backing from our supporters on other grounds. At home, though, if our lads have a shaky opening 15 minutes, the crowd start to get at us."

"Our players are putting everything they've got into the game, and if the fans realised this, some of them might be a little more patient with us. There is pressure put on the team, especially at Roker, when opposing sides get behind the ball and concentrate on defence."

"And in an attempt to break through an eight-man wall, Sunderland have thrown possibly too many men forward, which has exposed us to the quick break. For me, this has meant there have been occasions at home when I haven't been in action at all, which can make life hard for a goal-

run-up to the season's end.

"We are fortunate in having more matches at home than other top teams in the Division, such as Crystal Palace and Brighton. After we had beaten Millwall away early in March we found ourselves with 14 games to play, and nine of them scheduled for Roker Park."

"Admittedly, Stoke and Cambridge won at Sunderland, but we dominated for long periods, and I wouldn't swap our fixture list with that of any of our rivals."

"Also, among our present squad of players, there is keen competition for places. For example, top-class men such as Mike Docherty and Mike Buckley haven't found it easy to get back after injury."

"Fortunately the bad weather in January and February didn't affect us as much as some teams, though it was in that period we lost in the F.A. Cup against Burnley. Following our good win over Everton in the earlier round, the Burnley defeat came as a shock, and I'm not one of those who subscribe to the view our dismissal improved our promotion chances."

"A good run in the Cup boosts morale, and victory over Burnley would have gained Sunderland a trip to Liverpool in the next round — and no matter what the result at Anfield, it would have been great to have gone there."

"However, our priority is Division One — and we must have a good chance of achieving it."

Barry Siddall- keeping Sunderland in the promotion race

keeper, whose concentration must be total."

Siddall, one of the most self-critical goalkeepers in the game, is always completely honest with himself when analysing his performances.

"For the first time since moving from Bolton to Sunderland over two and a half years ago, I'm feeling happy about my form. Last season I must have had the worst campaign of my career — I was dissatisfied with the way I was playing."

"But from last August, I've felt my old confidence and attitude returning to what they were at Bolton. Maybe I have been over-critical in the past, but I do reckon my concentration and approach has improved enormously since the previous term. Now I consider I'm not far from the top form that prompted Sunderland to buy me in the first place."

And in addition to feeling more satisfied with his own game, Siddall firmly believes Sunderland will be placed among the leading challengers for promotion in the





Liverpool have won five major trophies in four years and the painting depicts all the players who have featured in The Reds' European Cup triumphs of 1977 and 1978.

Liverpool captain Emlyn Hughes presents Anfield manager Bob Paisley with a special painting by artist Michael Stubbs in recognition of the success the club has had under Paisley, Champions-elect

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